TOKYOPOP
BLADE OF HEAVEN
4
ART BY
KYUNG-IL YANG
STORY BY
YONG-SU HWANG

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Manga
Action/Fantasy
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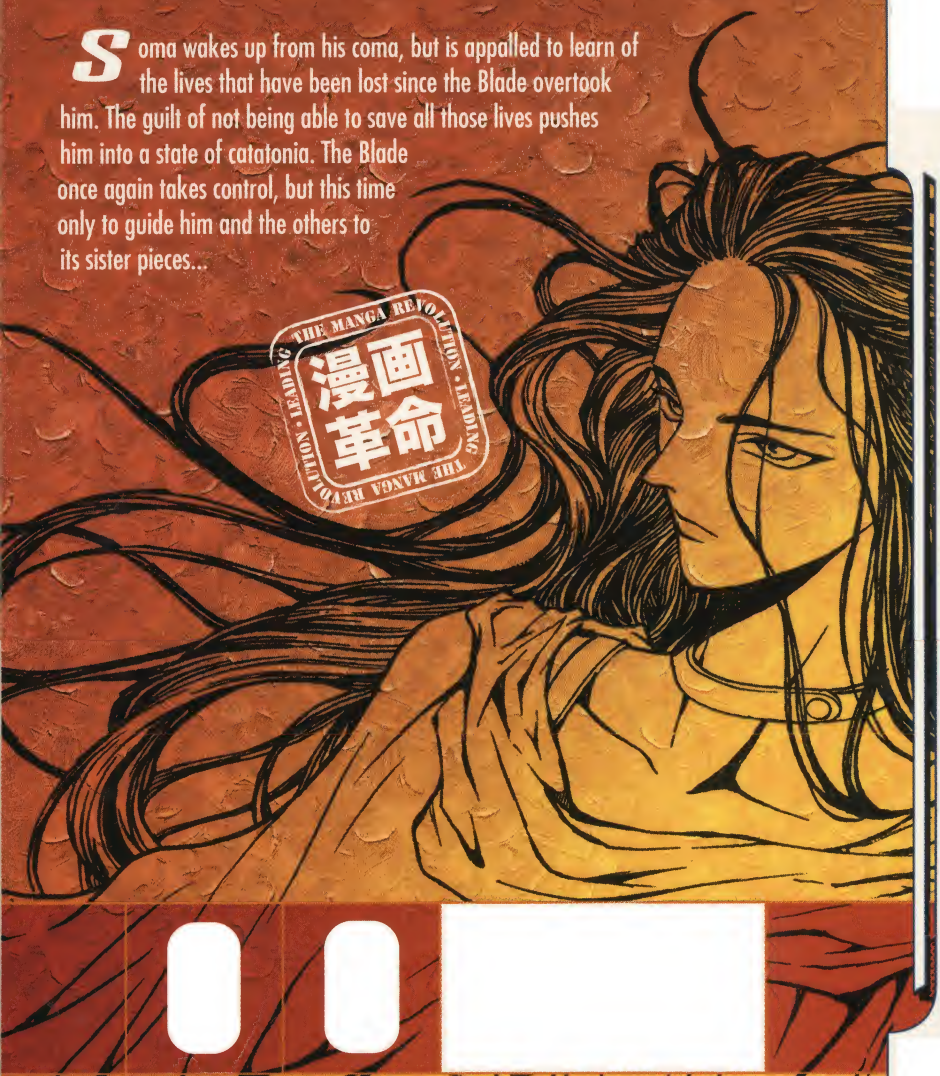
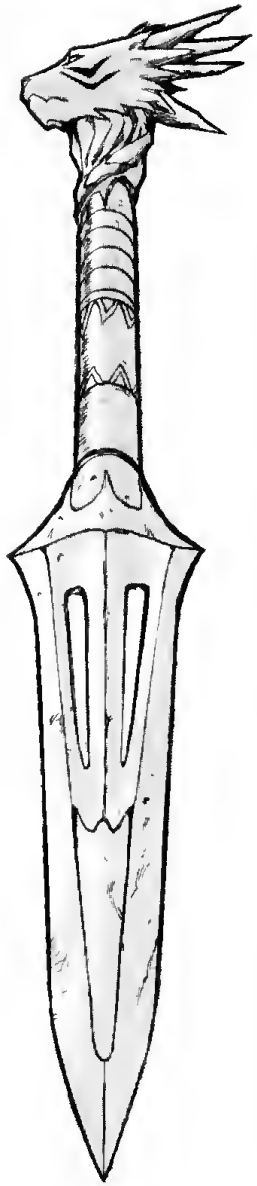




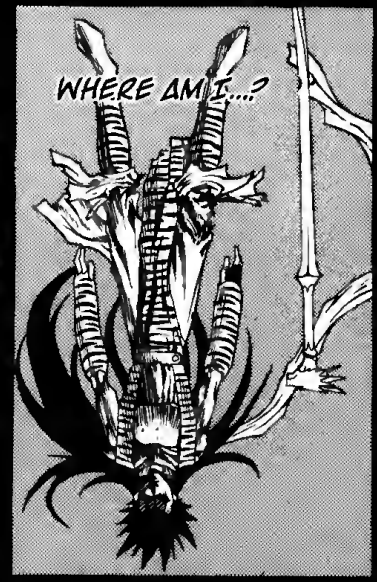
PREVIOUSLY IN

BLADE OF HEAVEN

IN A FIERCELY PITCHED BATTLE TO SAVE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND ITS DENIZENS, SOMA AND HIS CREW SACRIFICE ALL IN ORDER TO STOP THE EVIL BARURUGO. THEY SUCCEED, BUT AT A COST. BOTH FRIENDS AND ALLIES HAVE PERISHED AND SOMA LIES IN A COMA. BUT THERE IS LITTLE TIME TO LICK THEIR WOUNDS, AS MANCHURDO, THE KING OF HELL, SENDS HIS DARK FORCES TO THE 1,000 YEAR TREE VILLAGE TO RETRIEVE THE BLADE OF HEAVEN. UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BLADE, SOMA FIGHTS BACK THE HIDEOUS CREATURES, BUT THE RESULTS ARE DEVASTATING, AND FOR SOMA, POSSIBLY DEADLY...

BLADE OF HEAVEN
VOLUME 4
AUTHOR:
YONG-SU HWANG
ILLUSTRATOR:
KYUNG-IL YANG

IT'S SO DARK...!



저벅
O-OLD MAN!
저벅
GENERAL AUTUMN...? YOU'RE HERE, TOO?!
CHAENA!
WAIT...! WHERE RE YOU GUYS GOING?!

IT IS NOT YOUR TIME.
WHO IN THE HELL ARE YOU?!

YOU MUST RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, SOMA.

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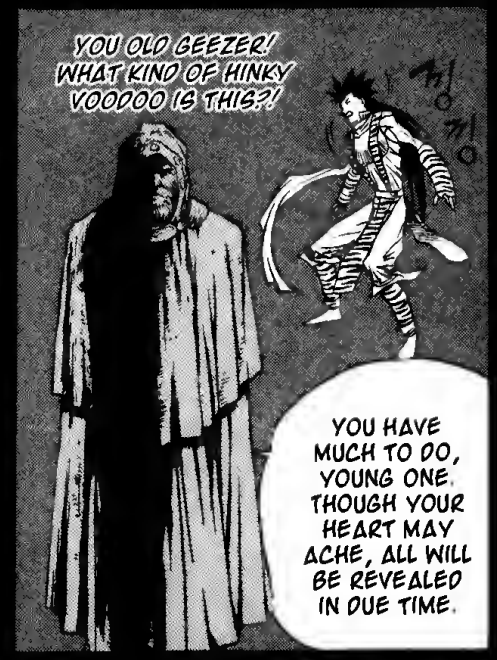
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU MAD AT ME?!

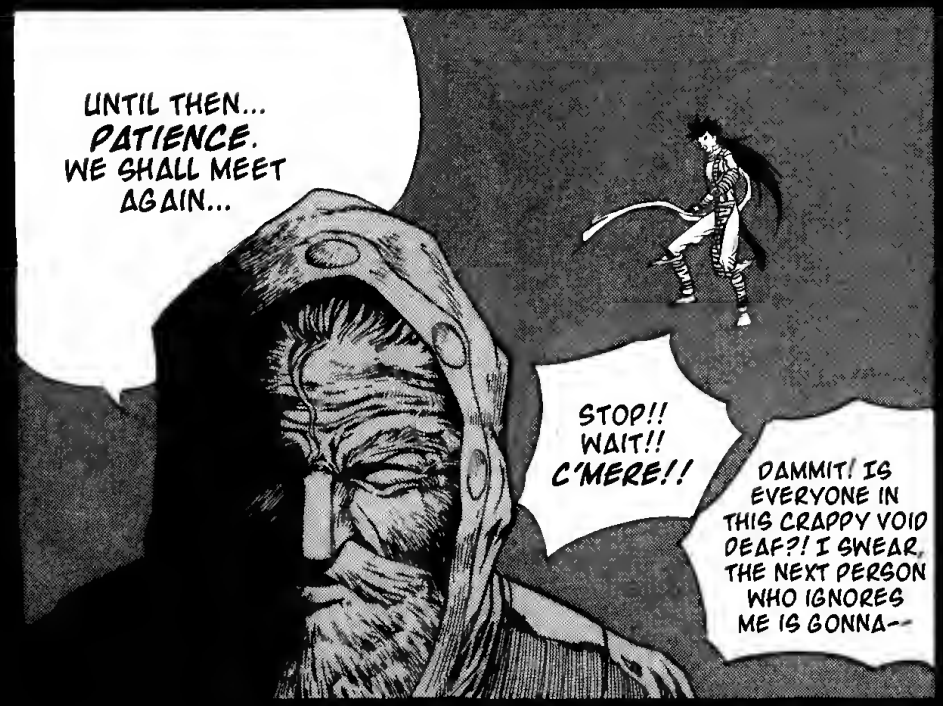
WAIT UP! I WANNA GO, TOO!
나야나

OH, I GET IT...! THEY TOOK ONE LOOK AT YOUR UGLY MUG AND HIGHTAILED IT OUTTA HERE! CAN'T SAY I BLAME 'EM!

NOW GET LOST! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR TH--
HUH?! HE HAS THE BLADE?!
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
THERE ARE MANY HARD TASKS AHEAD OF YOU. THAT IS WHY YOU MUST RETURN, SOMA.
WAIT...! I KNOW YOU...!
I FEEL AS IF...
...WE'VE MET BEFORE...!
YOUNG ONE...YOU'VE BEEN HERE TOO LONG.
HEY!! WAIT!!
GET BACK HERE!!
WHAT THE--?! TAKE YOUR MITTS OFF, GRAMPS!!
YOU DEAF?! I SAID LET GO!!

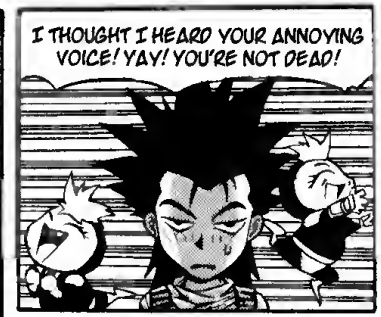
MY BODY... I CAN'T MOVE...

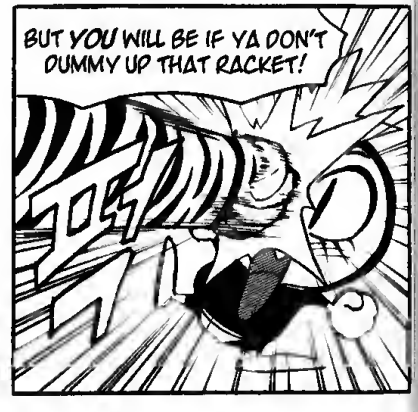

YOU OLD GEEZER! WHAT KIND OF HINKY VOODOO IS THIS?!
YOU HAVE MUCH TO DO, YOUNG ONE. THOUGH YOUR HEART MAY ACHE, ALL WILL BE REVEALED IN DUE TIME.

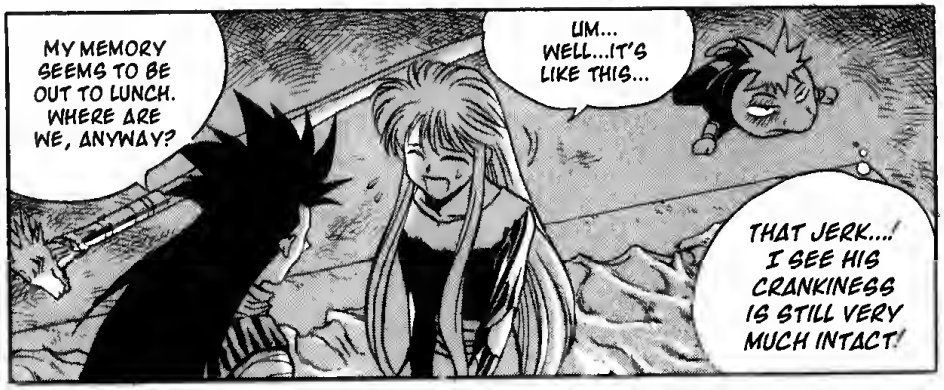

UNTIL THEN... PATIENCE. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN...
STOP!! WAIT!! C'MERE!!
DAMMIT! IS EVERYONE IN THIS CRAPPY VOID DEAF?! I SWEAR, THE NEXT PERSON WHO IGNORES ME IS GONNA--

--CRAP SHOE LEATHER FOR A MONTH!!
S-SOMA...?! WAKE UP, SOMA!!

THAT DREAM...SO REAL...SO STRANGE...
!


I THOUGHT I HEARD YOUR ANNOYING VOICE! YAY! YOU'RE NOT DEAD!


BUT YOU WILL BE IF YA DON'T DUMMY UP THAT RACKET!


MY MEMORY SEEMS TO BE OUT TO LUNCH. WHERE ARE WE, ANYWAY?
UM... WELL...IT'S LIKE THIS...
THAT JERK...! I SEE HIS CRANKINESS IS STILL VERY MUCH INTACT!

RYUHA FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS IN THE WOODS...

OH YEAH?! HOW'S MY FOOT SMELL? EH, WISE GUY?!
LIKE ROSES! YOUR FOOT SMELLS LIKE ROSES!!
HEE! SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...
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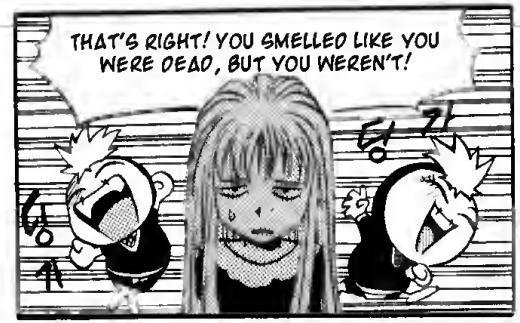
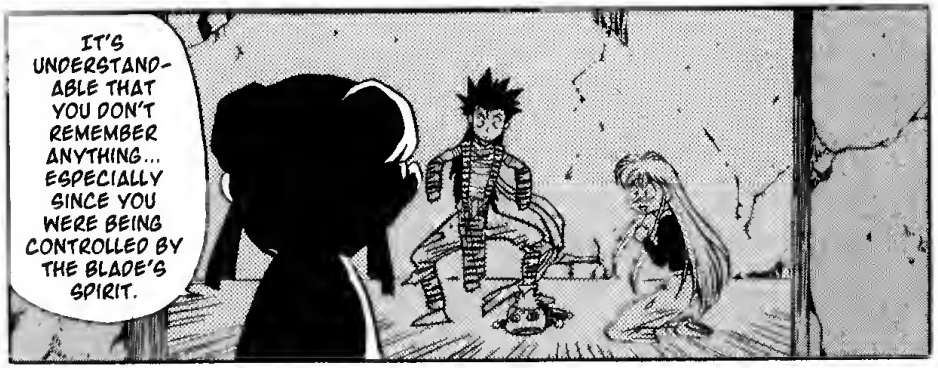
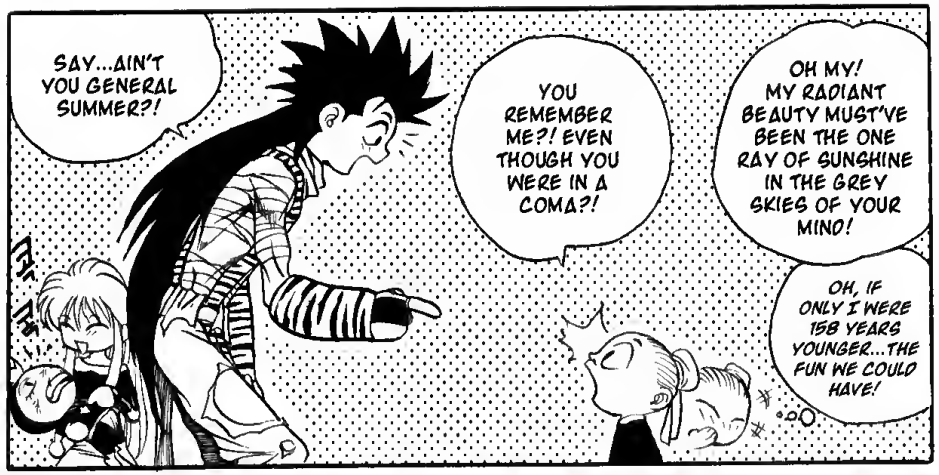
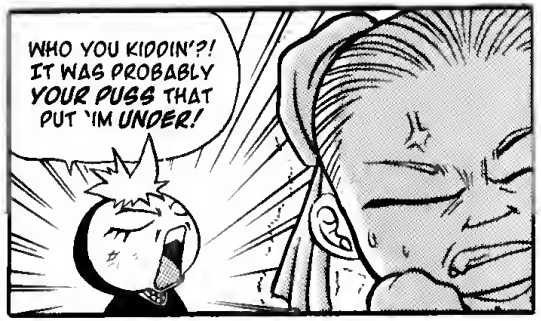
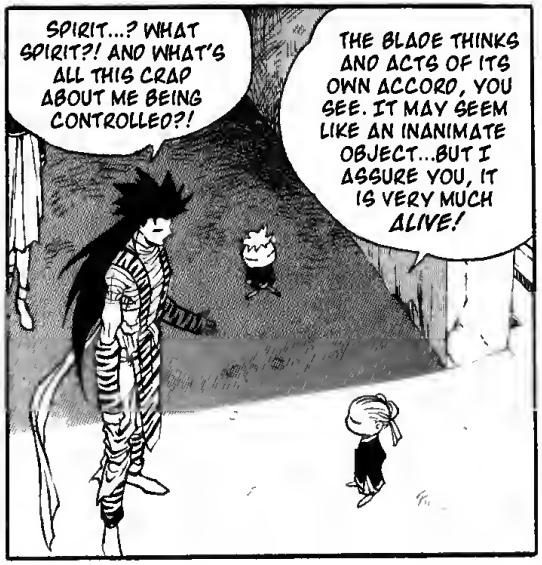

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU SMELLED LIKE YOU WERE DEAD, BUT YOU WEREN'T!

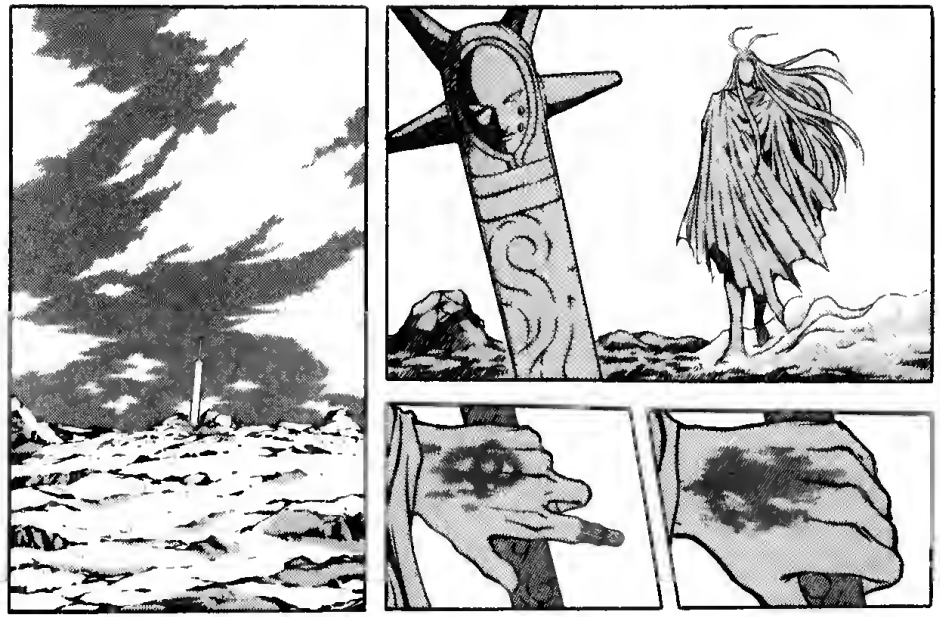

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING... ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU WERE BEING CONTROLLED BY THE BLADE'S SPIRIT.

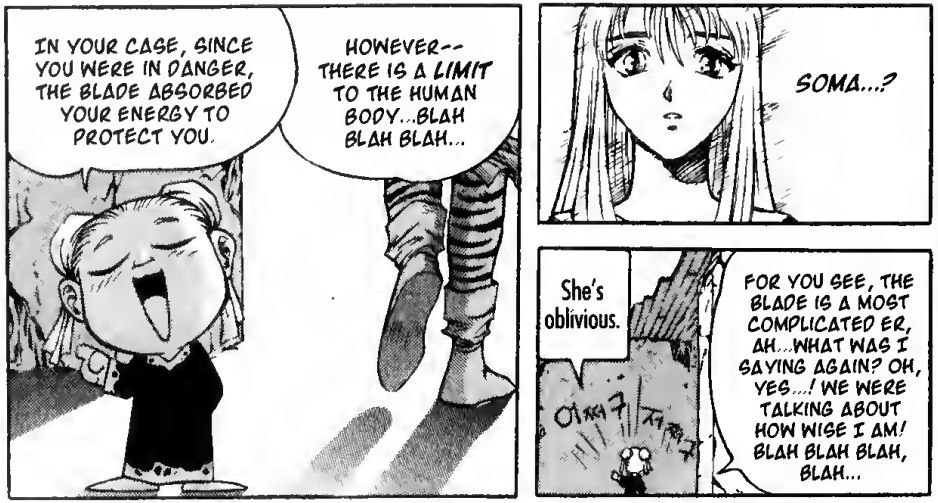

SAY...AIN'T YOU GENERAL SUMMER?!
YOU REMEMBER ME?! EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE IN A COMA?!
OH MY! MY RADIANT BEAUTY MUST'VE BEEN THE ONE RAY OF SUNSHINE IN THE GREY SKIES OF YOUR MIND!
OH, IF ONLY I WERE 158 YEARS YOUNGER...THE FUN WE COULD HAVE!


WHO YOU KIDDIN'?! IT WAS PROBABLY *YOUR PUSS* THAT PUT 'IM *UNDER!*


SPIRIT...? WHAT SPIRIT?! AND WHAT'S ALL THIS CRAP ABOUT ME BEING CONTROLLED?!
THE BLADE THINKS AND ACTS OF ITS OWN ACCORD, YOU SEE. IT MAY SEEM LIKE AN INANIMATE OBJECT...BUT I ASSURE YOU, IT IS VERY MUCH *ALIVE!*

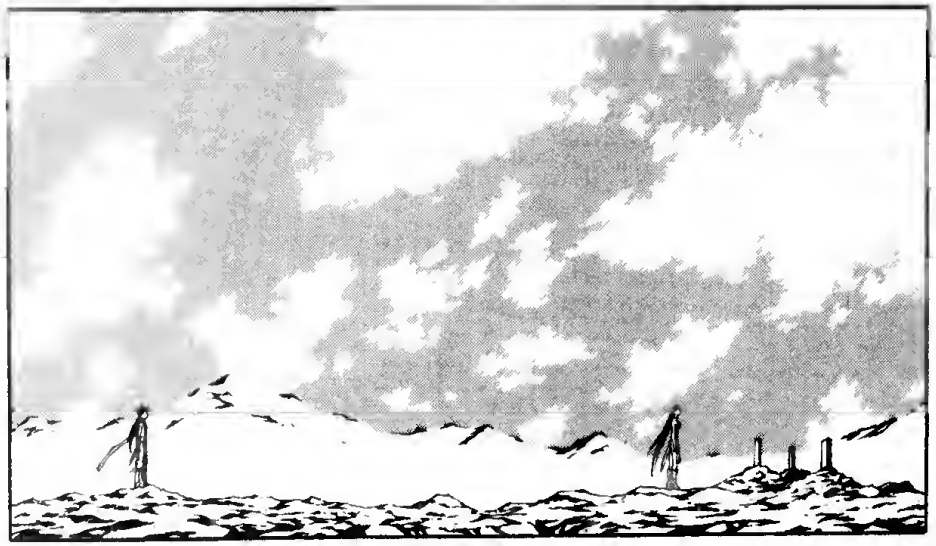
THE BLADE HARBORS TREMENDOUS POWER. IF THE WIELDER IS UNABLE TO CONTROL IT...THEN THE BLADE WILL SEIZE CONTROL OF THE WIELDER'S MIND AND BODY.

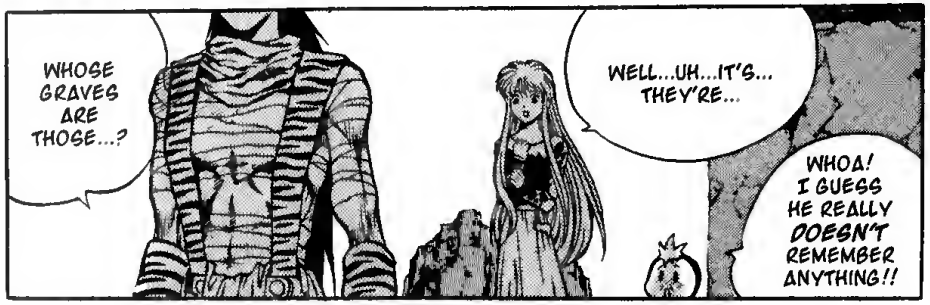

BLOOD...? I...I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING...


IN YOUR CASE, SINCE YOU WERE IN DANGER, THE BLADE ABSORBED YOUR ENERGY TO PROTECT YOU.
HOWEVER-- THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE HUMAN BODY...BLAH BLAH BLAH...

SOMA...?

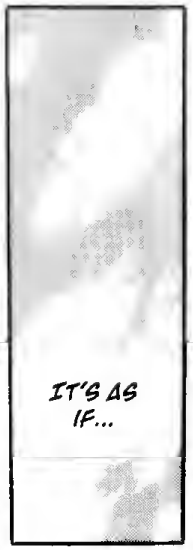
She's oblivious.
FOR YOU SEE, THE BLADE IS A MOST COMPLICATED ER, AH...WHAT WAS I SAYING AGAIN? OH, YES...! WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW WISE I AM! BLAH BLAH BLAH, BLAH...



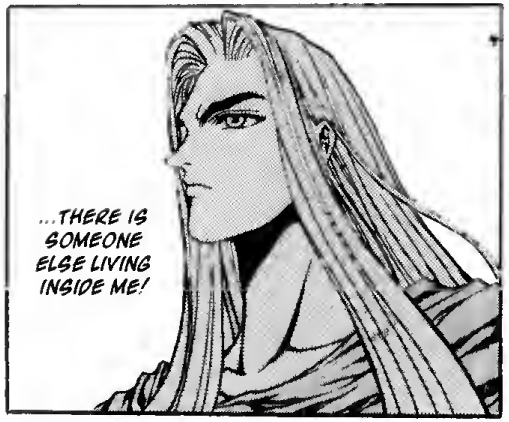

WHOSE GRAVES ARE THOSE...?
WELL...UH...IT'S... THEY'RE...
WHOA! I GUESS HE REALLY DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!!

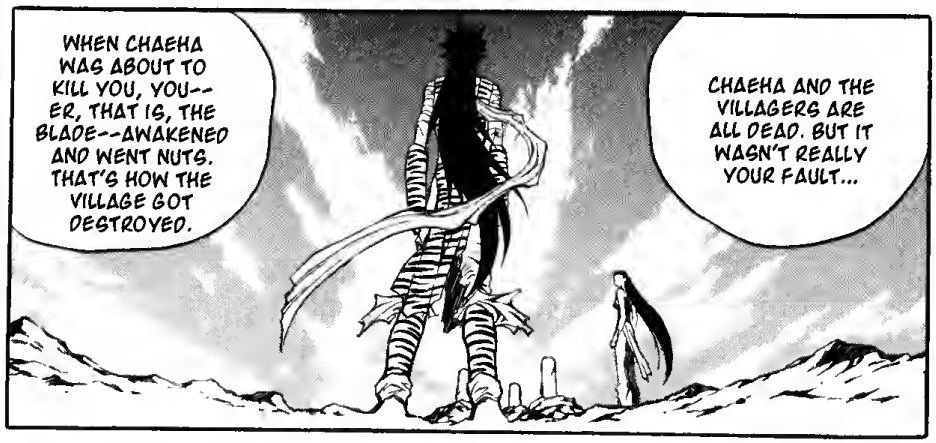
I DO KNOW...NO--MORE LIKE FEEL... LIKE I'VE BEEN CONTROLLED... CONTROLLED BY A MURDEROUS ENERGY...

IT FEELS LIKE ICY FINGERS ARE GRIPPING MY HEART. BUT WHERE...? WHERE IS THIS ENERGY COMING FROM...?


IT'S AS IF...

WHO... WHAT... AM I?!


...THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE LIVING INSIDE ME!


WHEN CHAEHA WAS ABOUT TO KILL YOU, YOU--ER, THAT IS, THE BLADE--AWAKENED AND WENT NUTS. THAT'S HOW THE VILLAGE GOT DESTROYED.
CHAEHA AND THE VILLAGERS ARE ALL DEAD. BUT IT WASN'T REALLY YOUR FAULT...

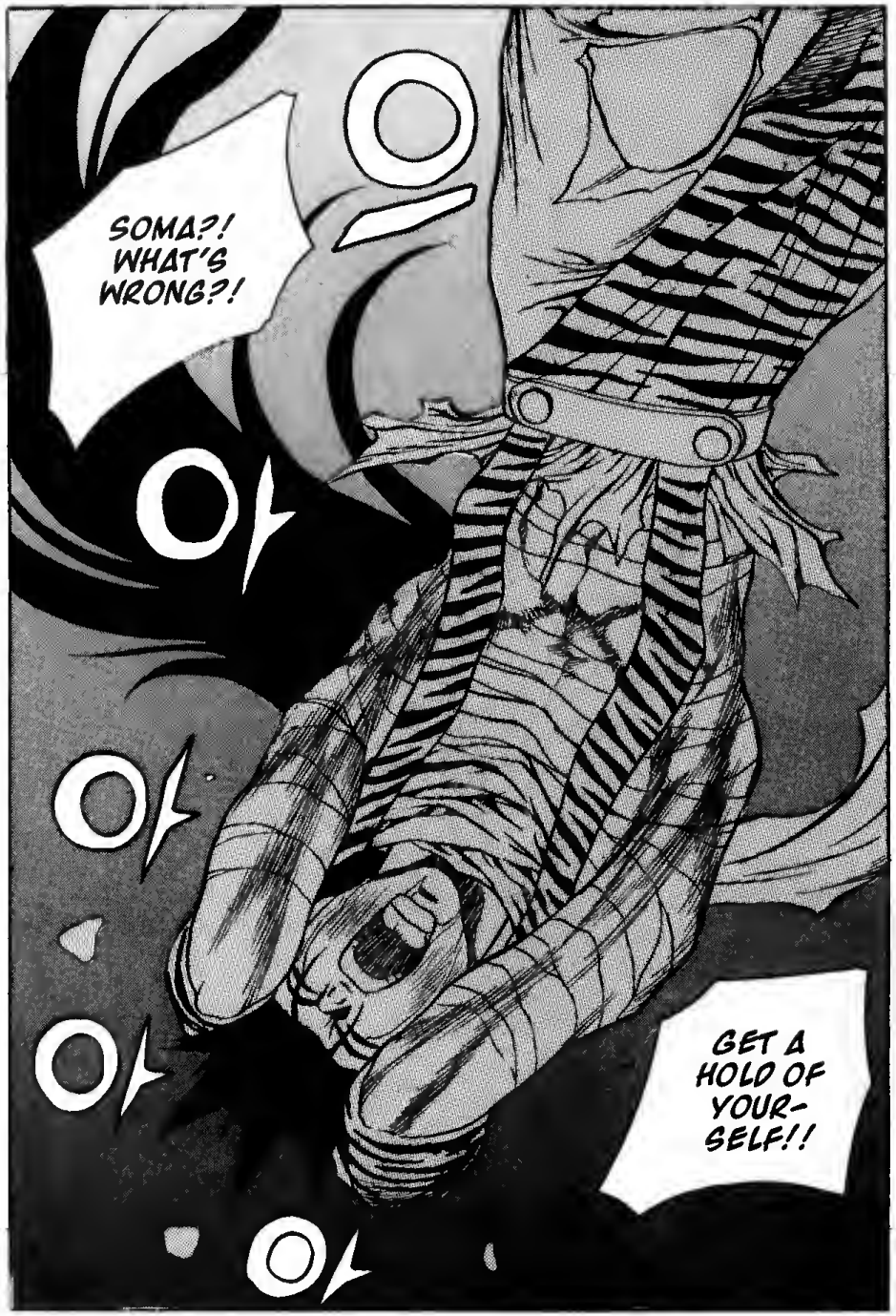
OH! AND GENERAL WINTER KICKED THE BUCKE--MMPH!
QUIET, FAT NINJA!

SOMA...!

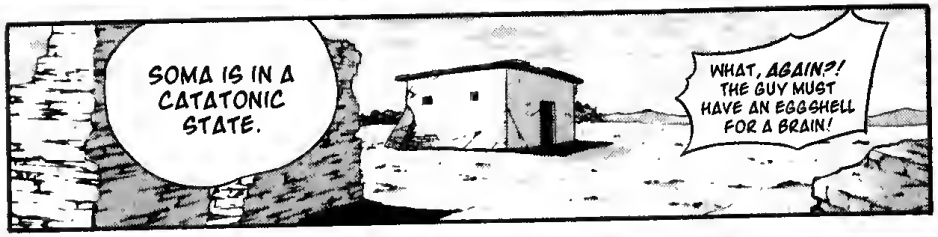
WHY'D YOU COVER MY MOUTH?!
WHAT'D I SAY?! I DEMAND ANSWERS!
STOP SQUIRMING! LOOK--SOMA NEEDS TIME TO REST!

C'AEHA...!
OLD MAN... THE VILLAGERS... GENERAL WINTER...
ALL...DEAD... ALL...GONE...
SOMA...? ARE YOU...?

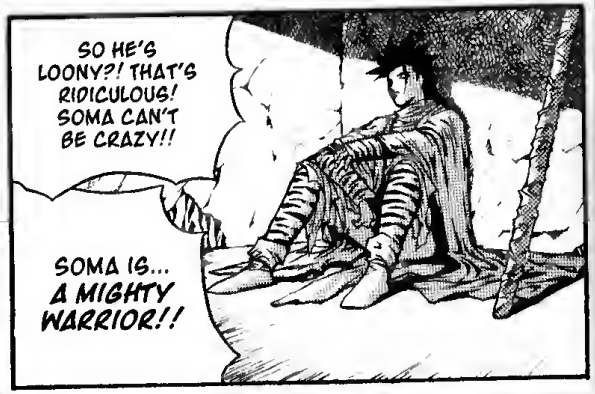
AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
SOMA! YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF--!!
THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE!!
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, SOMA!!
IF ONLY I HADN'T BEEN SO WEAK...!! IF ONLY I HAD BEEN STRONGER...!! THEN THE BLADE WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO TAKE CONTROL!!



BLADE OF HEAVEN

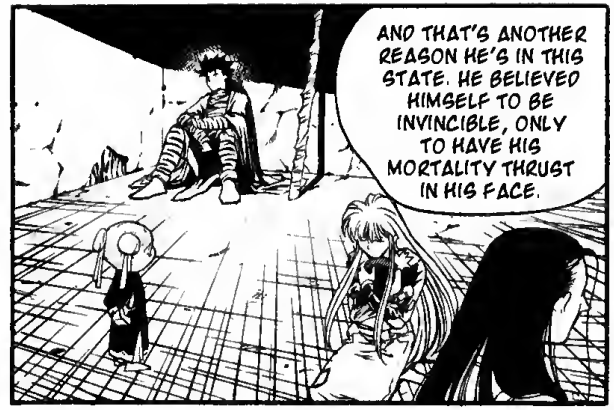

SOMA IS IN A CATATONIC STATE.
WHAT, AGAIN?! THE GUY MUST HAVE AN EGGSHELL FOR A BRAIN!

IT'S NOT LIKE BEFORE, THOUGH. HE IS LIVING IN A WORLD INSIDE HIS MIND. NO AMOUNT OF OUTSIDE STIMULI WILL BRING HIM BACK.


SO HE'S LOONY?! THAT'S RIDICULOUS! SOMA CAN'T BE CRAZY!!
SOMA IS... A MIGHTY WARRIOR!!

HE'S STRONG!! HE'LL FIGHT THROUGH THIS! HE HAS TO! HE OWES ME MONEY...!

THE SOMA I KNOW IS...IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN...

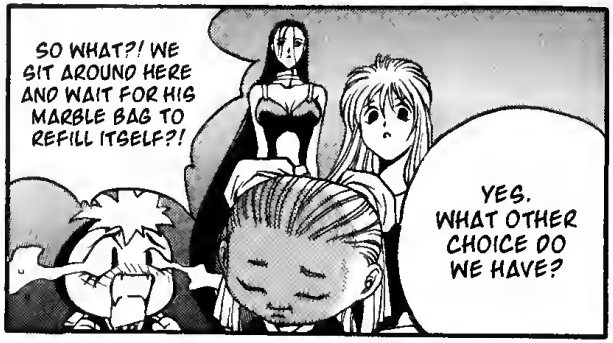

AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON HE'S IN THIS STATE. HE BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE INVINCIBLE, ONLY TO HAVE HIS MORTALITY THRUST IN HIS FACE.

THE GUILT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO SAVE ALL THOSE PEOPLE HAS GREATLY TRAUMATIZED HIM. THAT'S WHY HE HAS REGRESSED INSIDE HIS OWN MIND.
HE'S BANISHED HIMSELF TO A WORLD OF HIS OWN DESIGN... ONE WHERE HE IS ITS ONLY OCCUPANT.

B-BUT... IS THERE A WAY FOR US TO GET HIM BACK...?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!!

I'M AFRAID NOT, FAT NINJA. SOMA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HIMSELF.

WHEN, IF EVER, WILL THAT HAPPEN? THAT I DON'T KNOW...

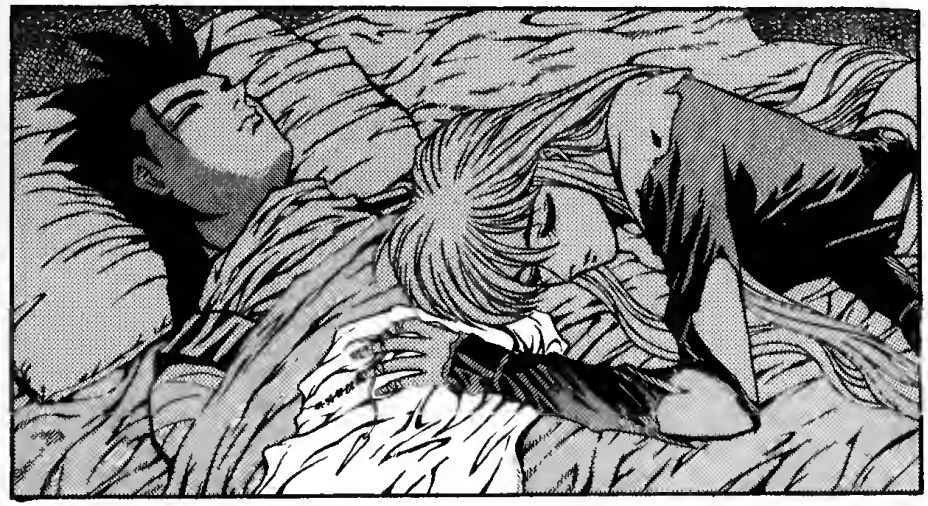

SO WHAT?! WE SIT AROUND HERE AND WAIT FOR HIS MARBLE BAG TO REFILL ITSELF?!
YES. WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?

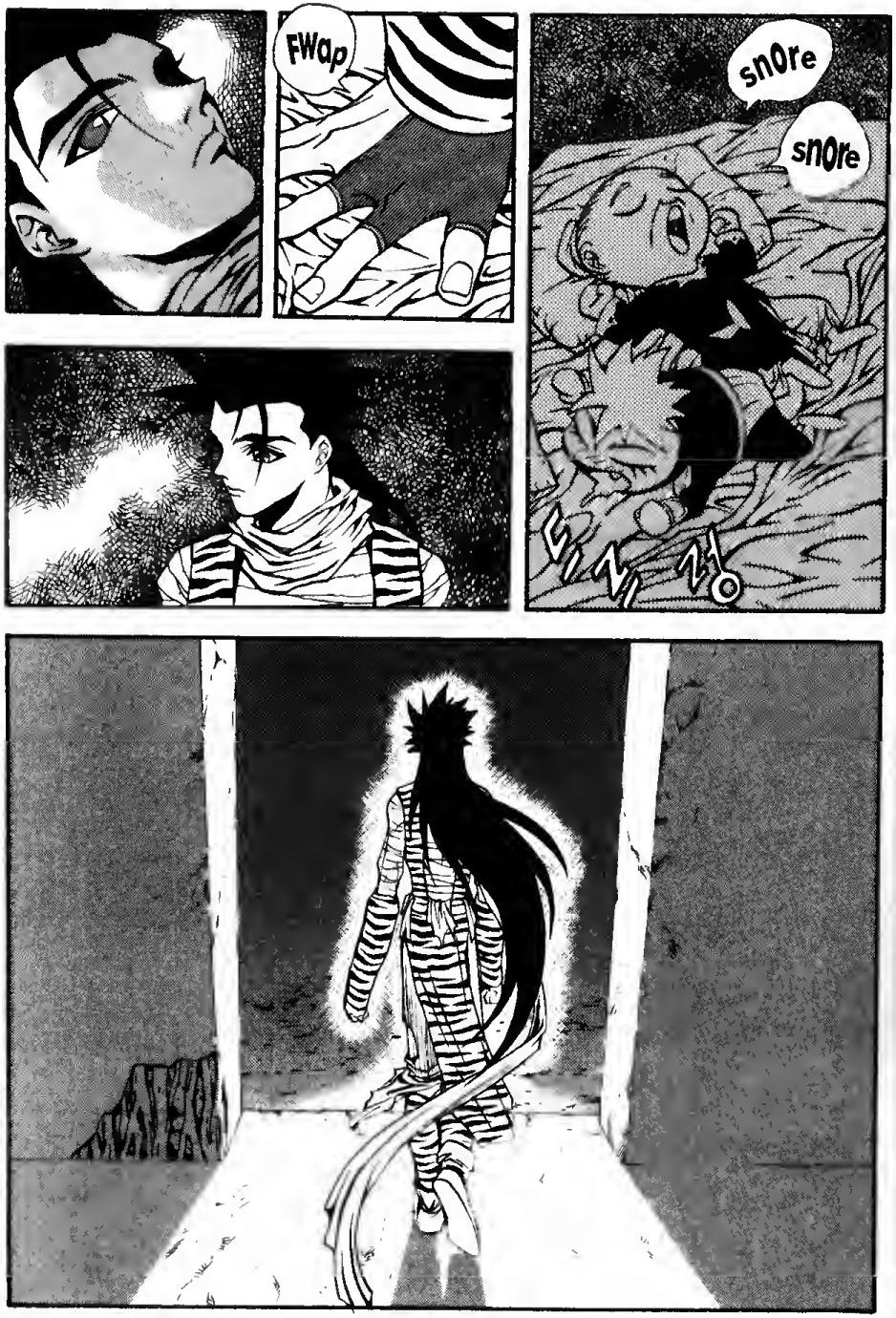
SOMA...I'M SO SORRY...

BUT DON'T WORRY! I WILL PROTECT YOU-- NO MATTER WHAT!

THIS...

...I PROMISE!

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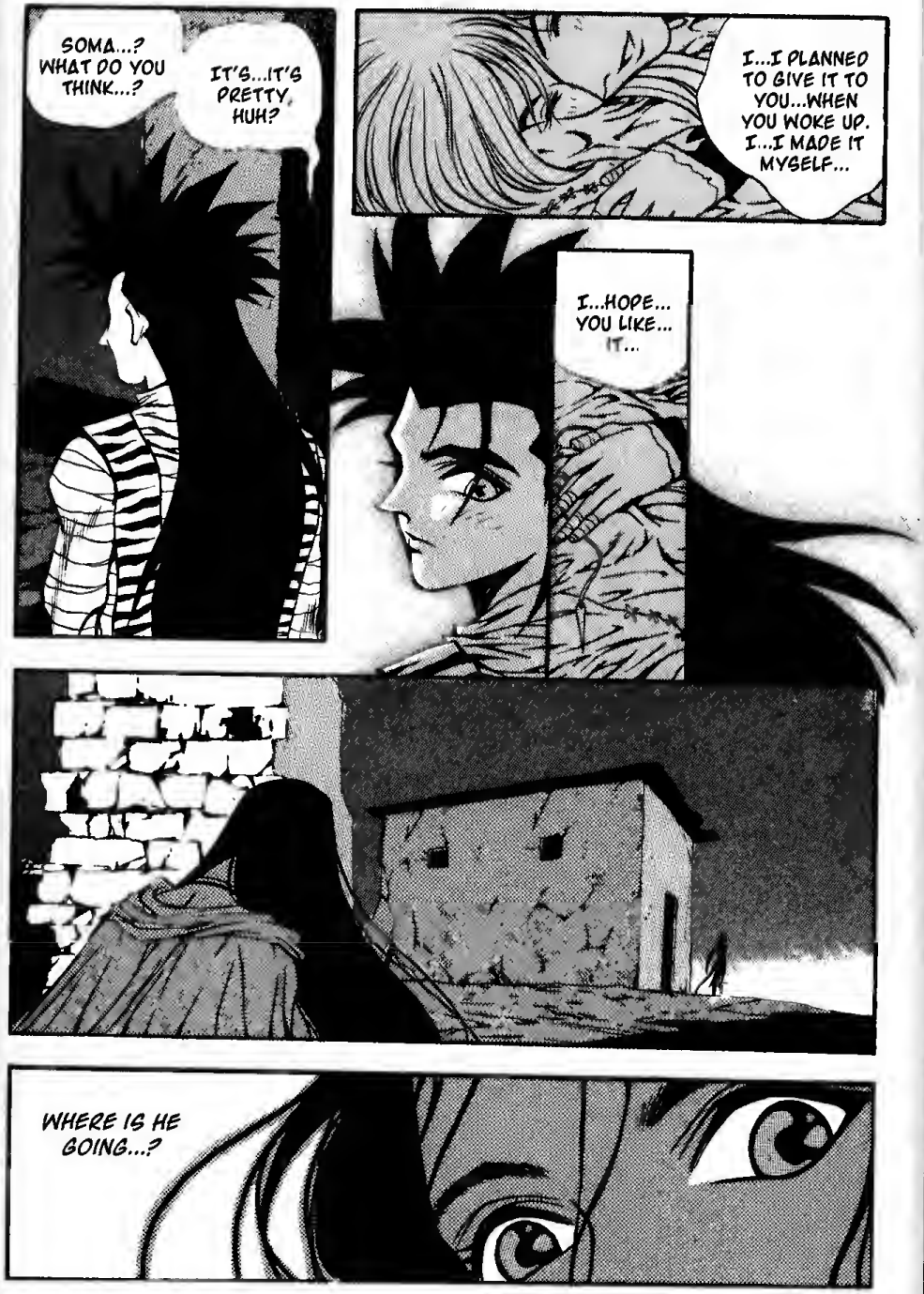
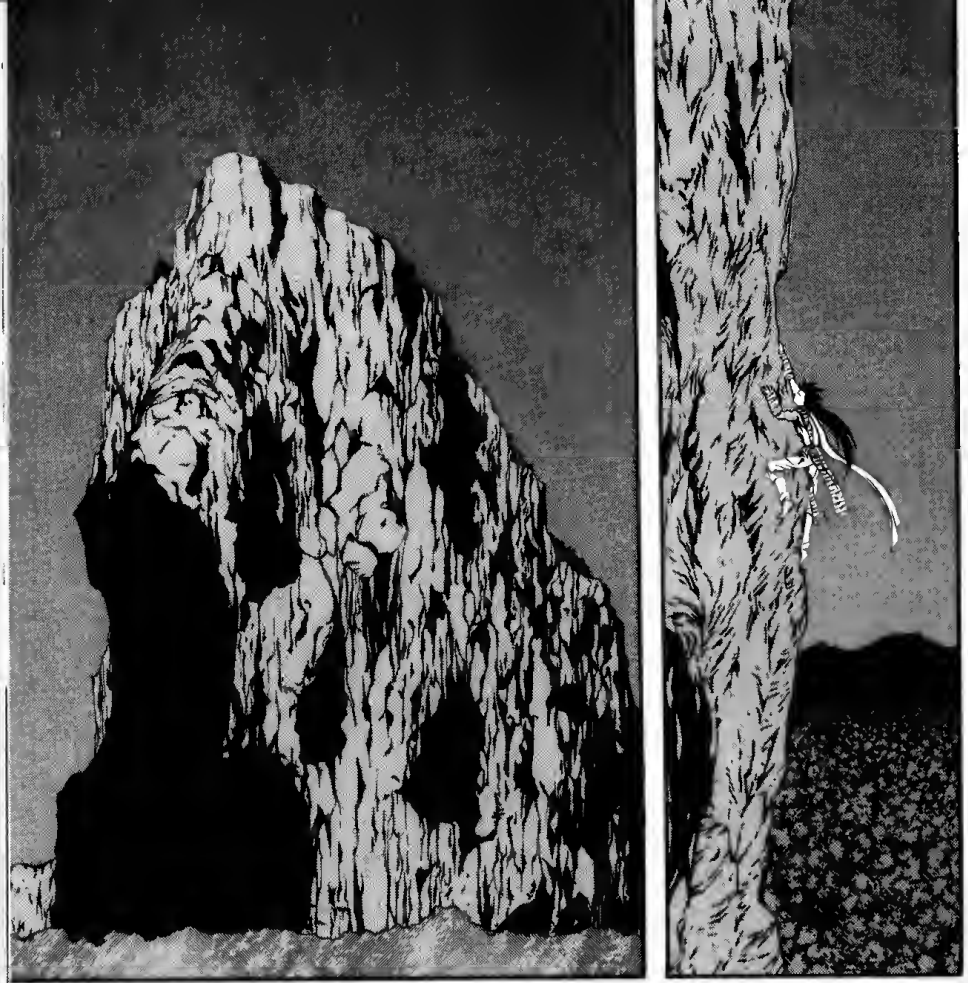
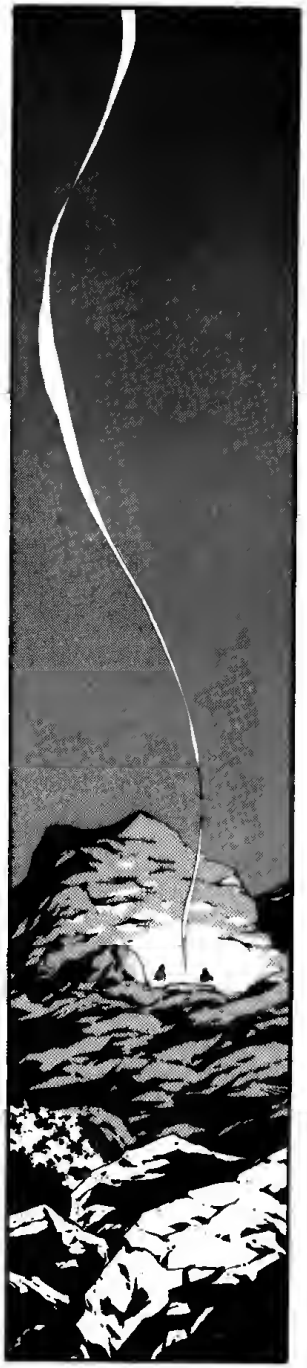

SOMA...? WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
IT'S...IT'S PRETTY, HUH?
I...I PLANNED TO GIVE IT TO YOU...WHEN YOU WOKE UP. I...I MADE IT MYSELF...
I...HOPE... YOU LIKE... IT...
WHERE IS HE GOING...?

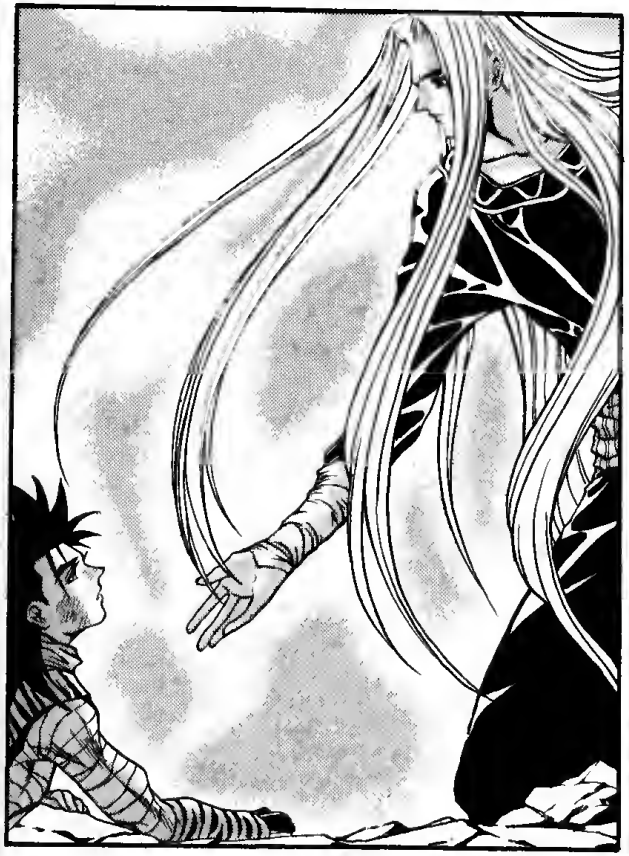


HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

GND

HUFF!
HUFF!





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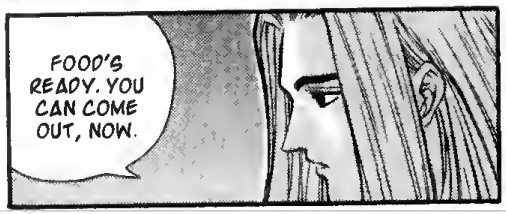
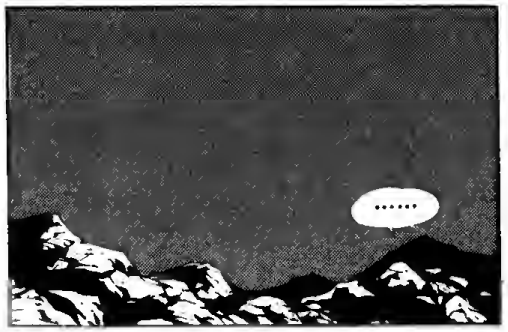

FOOD'S READY. YOU CAN COME OUT, NOW.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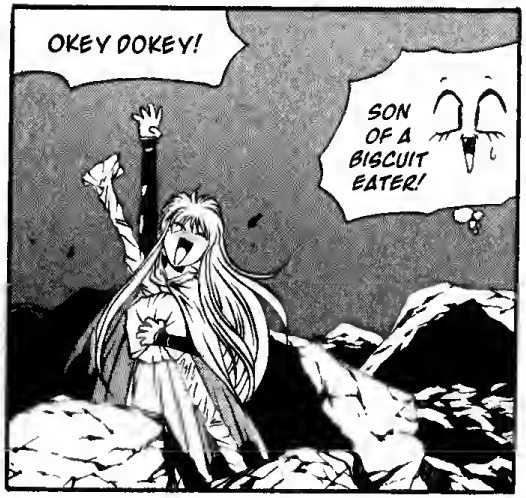
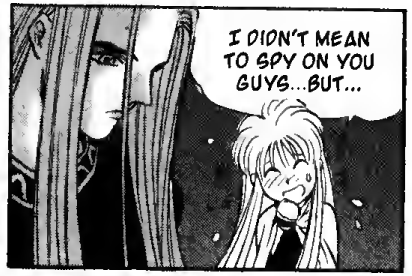
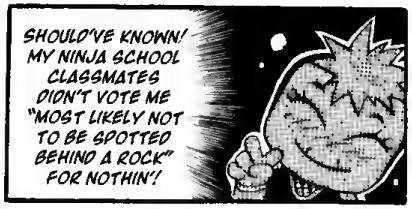
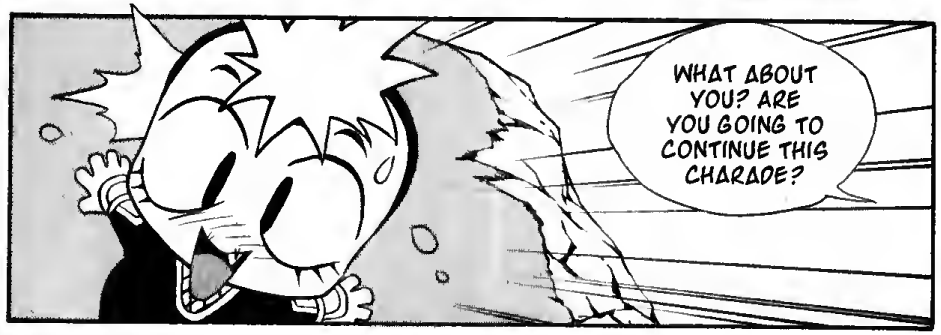
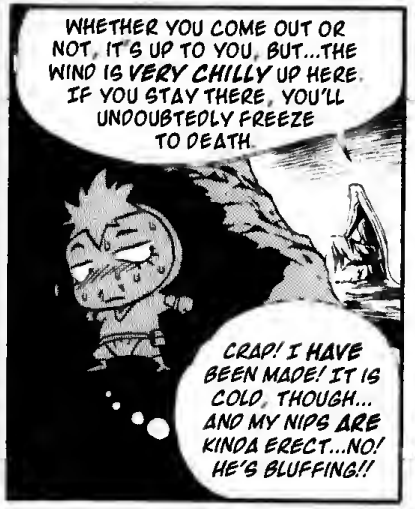
CURSES! HOW'D HE KNOW I WAS HERE?!


OKEY DOKEY!
SON OF A BISCUIT EATER!


I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPY ON YOU GUYS...BUT...


SHOULD'VE KNOWN! MY NINJA SCHOOL CLASSMATES DIDN'T VOTE ME "MOST LIKELY NOT TO BE SPOTTED BEHIND A ROCK" FOR NOTHIN'!


WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE THIS CHARADE?


WHETHER YOU COME OUT OR NOT, IT'S UP TO YOU. BUT...THE WIND IS VERY CHILLY UP HERE. IF YOU STAY THERE, YOU'LL UNDOUBTEDLY FREEZE TO DEATH.
CRAP! I HAVE BEEN MADE! IT IS COLD, THOUGH... AND MY NIPS ARE KINDA ERECT...NO! HE'S BLUFFING!!

THAT'S IT! THERE MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES M--

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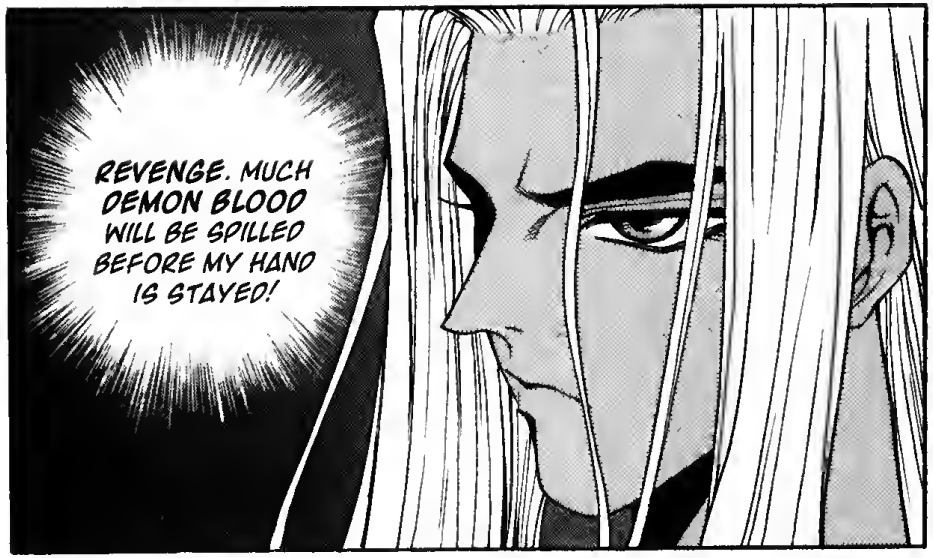
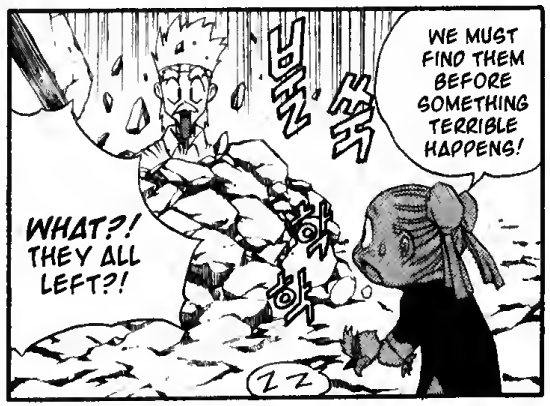
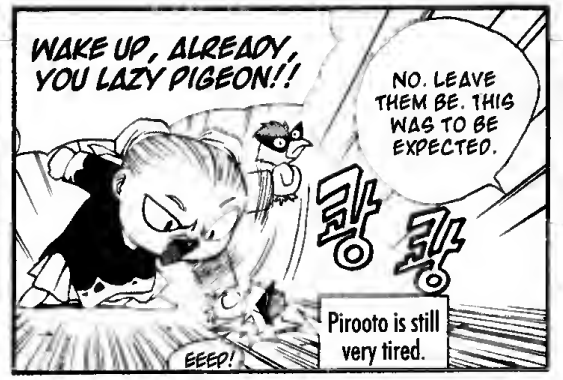
SHH! KEEP IT DOWN...!
HONEY BUNNY!
RYUHA! C'MON OVER! THE FOOD IS TO DIE FOR!
THANKS A LOT, PRINCESS...! NO MATTER...! HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE ONE THAT KILLED CHAEHA AND GRANDFATHER...BUT UNTIL WE FIND OUT HIS TRUE IDENTITY, I'LL BE WATCHING HIM LIKE A HAWK!

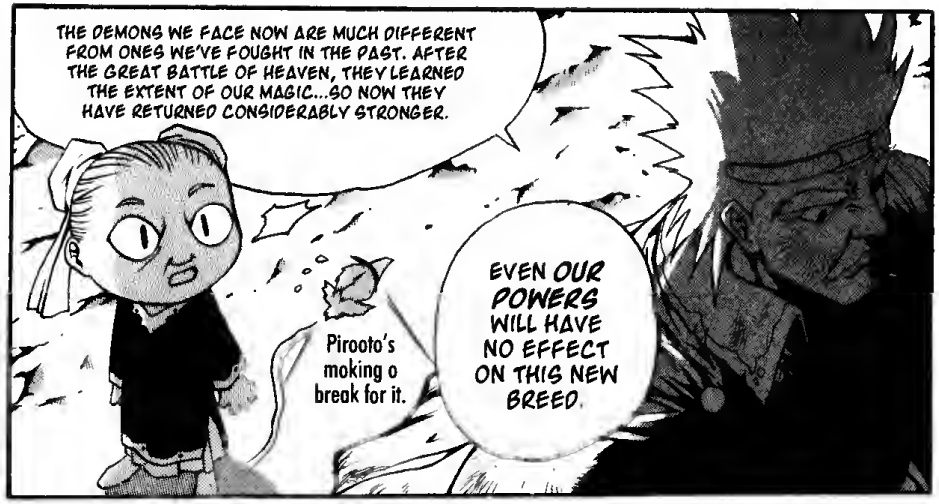
NO THANK YOU.
DON'T WORRY. I DIDN'T POISON THE FOOD. MY OBJECTIVE IS THE SAME AS YOURS.
OBJEC-TIVE...?
WHAT "OBJEC-TIVE"?

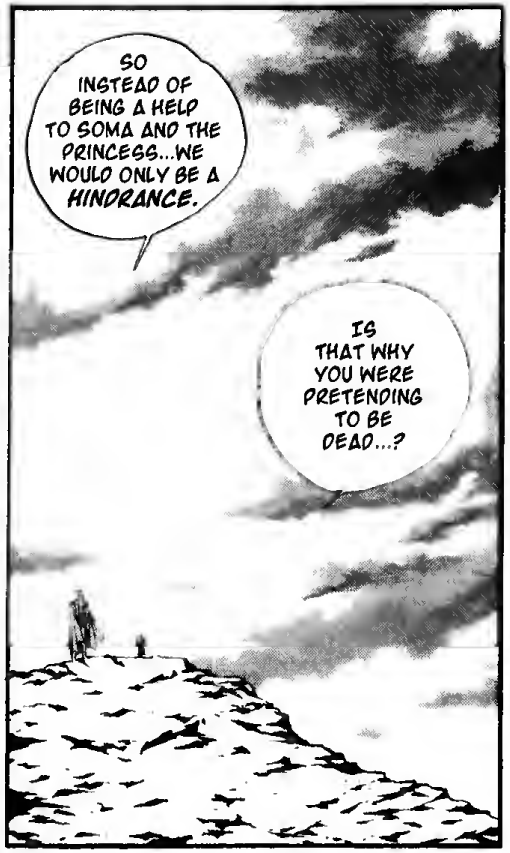

REVENGE. MUCH DEMON BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED BEFORE MY HAND IS STAYED!

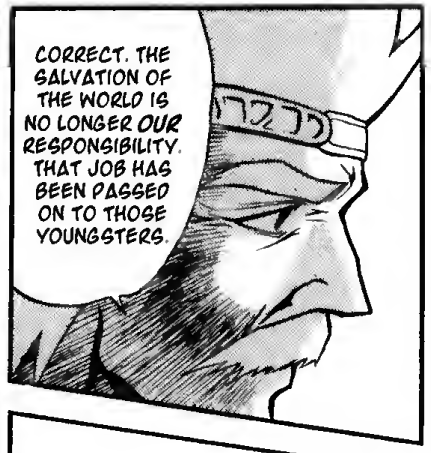
OH, PICKLE JUICE!!
THEY'RE GONE!!

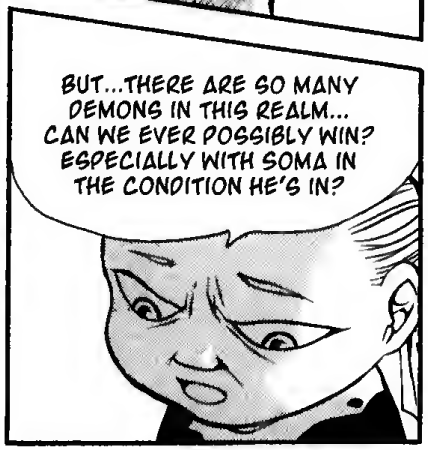

WE MUST FIND THEM BEFORE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS!
WHAT?! THEY ALL LEFT?!
ZZ


WAKE UP, ALREADY, YOU LAZY PIGEON!!
NO. LEAVE THEM BE. THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED.
EEEP!
Pirooto is still very tired.

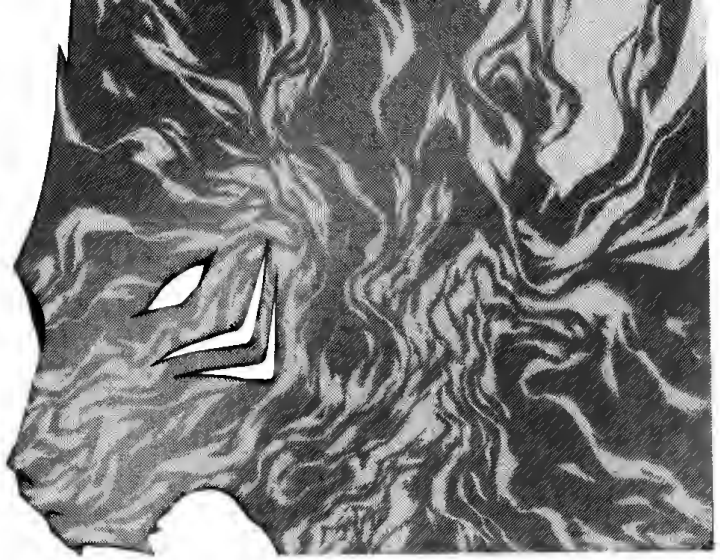

THE DEMONS WE FACE NOW ARE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM ONES WE'VE FOUGHT IN THE PAST. AFTER THE GREAT BATTLE OF HEAVEN, THEY LEARNED THE EXTENT OF OUR MAGIC...SO NOW THEY HAVE RETURNED CONSIDERABLY STRONGER.
Pirooto's moking a break for it.
EVEN OUR POWERS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THIS NEW BREED.

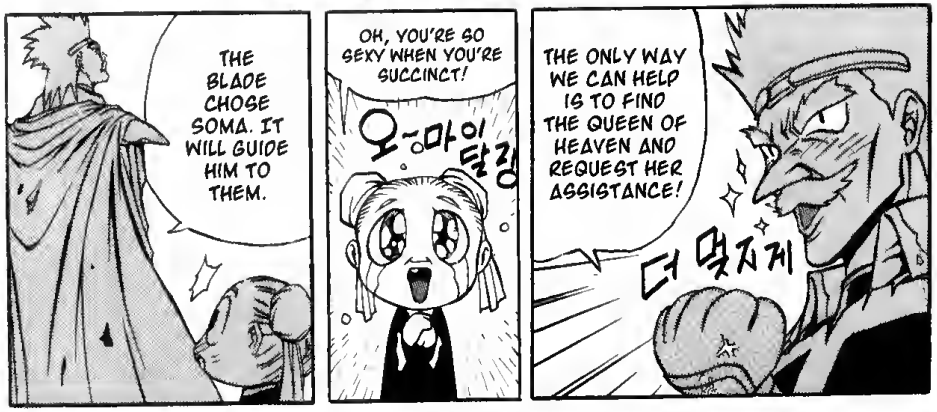

SO INSTEAD OF BEING A HELP TO SOMA AND THE PRINCESS...WE WOULD ONLY BE A HINDRANCE.
IS THAT WHY YOU WERE PRETENDING TO BE DEAD...?

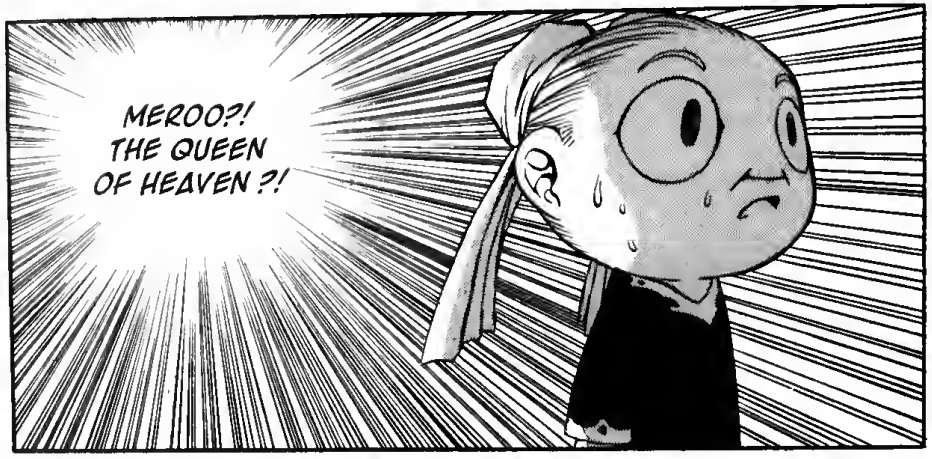

CORRECT. THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD IS NO LONGER OUR RESPONSIBILITY. THAT JOB HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO THOSE YOUNGSTERS.


BUT...THERE ARE SO MANY DEMONS IN THIS REALM... CAN WE EVER POSSIBLY WIN? ESPECIALLY WITH SOMA IN THE CONDITION HE'S IN?

NOT TO MENTION HE HAS ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR BLADE COMPONENTS...

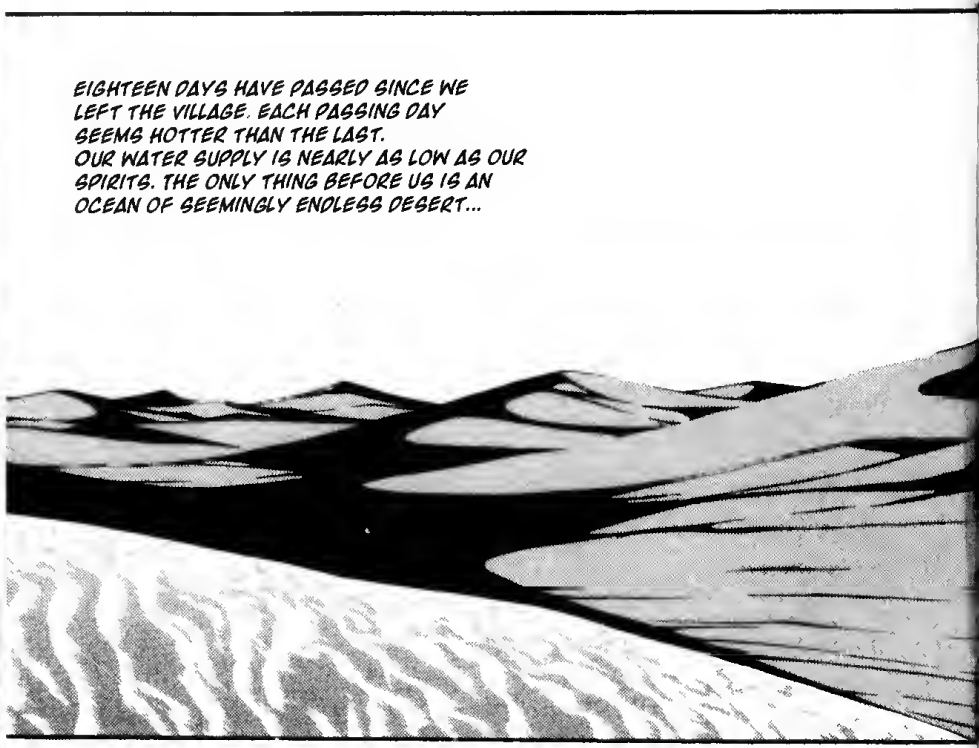




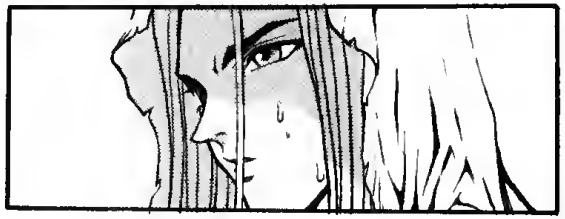


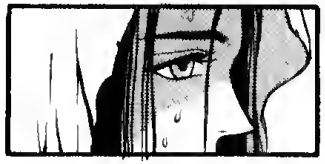
BLADE OF HEAVEN

EIGHTEEN DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE LEFT THE VILLAGE. EACH PASSING DAY SEEMS HOTTER THAN THE LAST.
OUR WATER SUPPLY IS NEARLY AS LOW AS OUR SPIRITS. THE ONLY THING BEFORE US IS AN OCEAN OF SEEMINGLY ENDLESS DESERT...

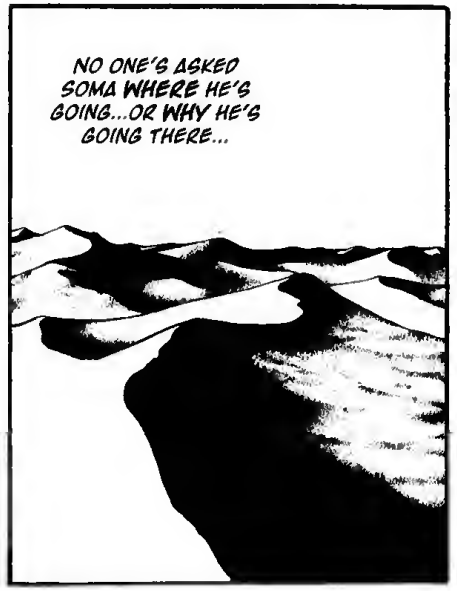


AND YET...WE GO ON. WE GO ON FOLLOWING SOMA.



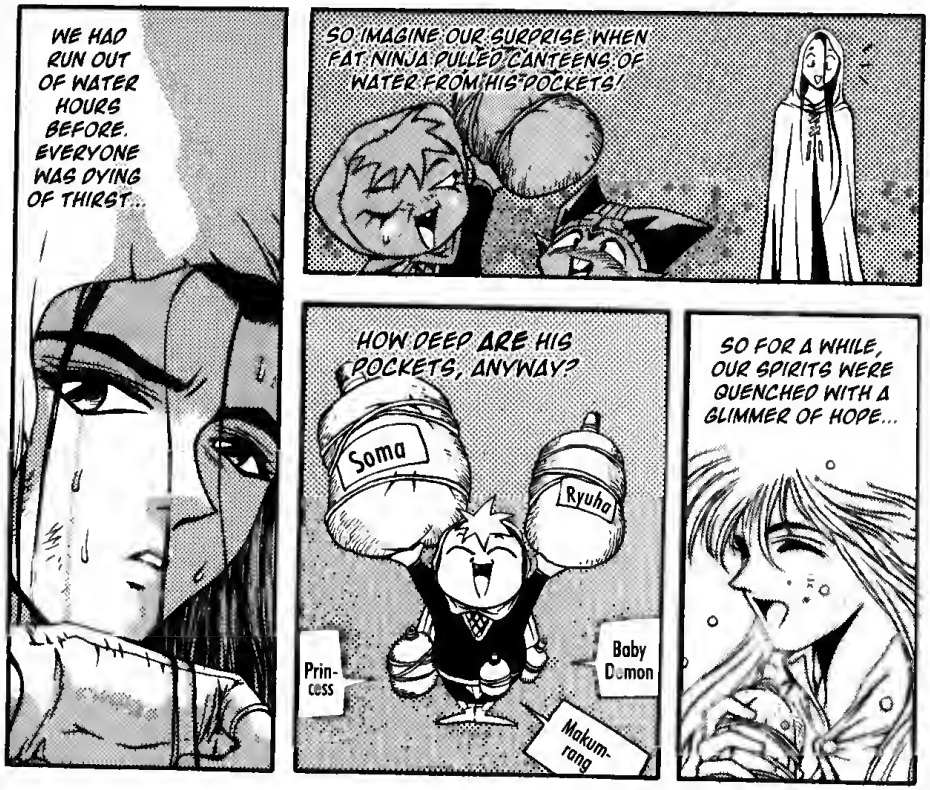


NO ONE'S ASKED SOMA **WHERE** HE'S GOING...OR **WHY** HE'S GOING THERE...



OUR FAITH IN HIM KEEPS OUR LEGS MOVING.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN... WE WERE ALL EXHAUSTED... SOMA'S SKIN WAS CRACKED AND PEELING...
WHEN WE ASKED HIM IF HE WAS OKAY, HE JUST CONTINUED TO WALK ...
MY HEART ACHED FOR HIM.
SOMA... WHERE DID YOU GO...?
PANT.
PANT.
PANT.
ANOTHER DAY... ANOTHER SCORCHING SUN...


WE HAD RUN OUT OF WATER HOURS BEFORE. EVERYONE WAS DYING OF THIRST...
SO IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE WHEN FAT NINJA PULLED CANTEENS OF WATER FROM HIS POCKETS!
HOW DEEP ARE HIS POCKETS, ANYWAY?
Soma
Ryuha
Prin-cess
Baby Demon
Makum-rang
SO FOR A WHILE, OUR SPIRITS WERE QUENCHED WITH A GLIMMER OF HOPE...

AND THEN...

...THE WATER RAN OUT. AGAIN.

THAT HAD TO BE THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT HIS POCKETS WERE COMPLETELY EMPTY.
WATER X

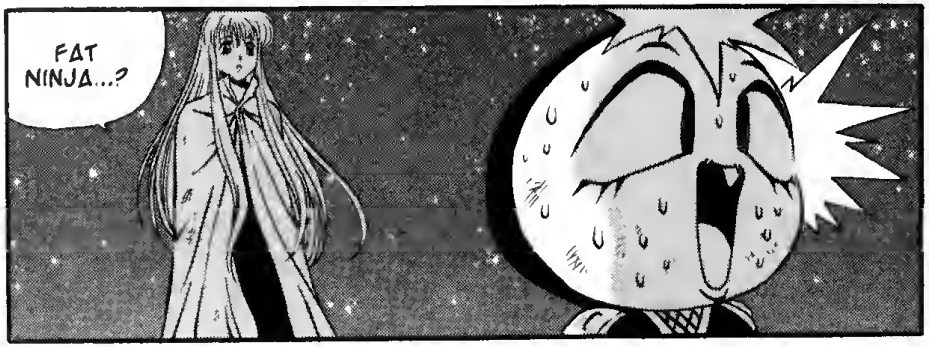
AND THEN...

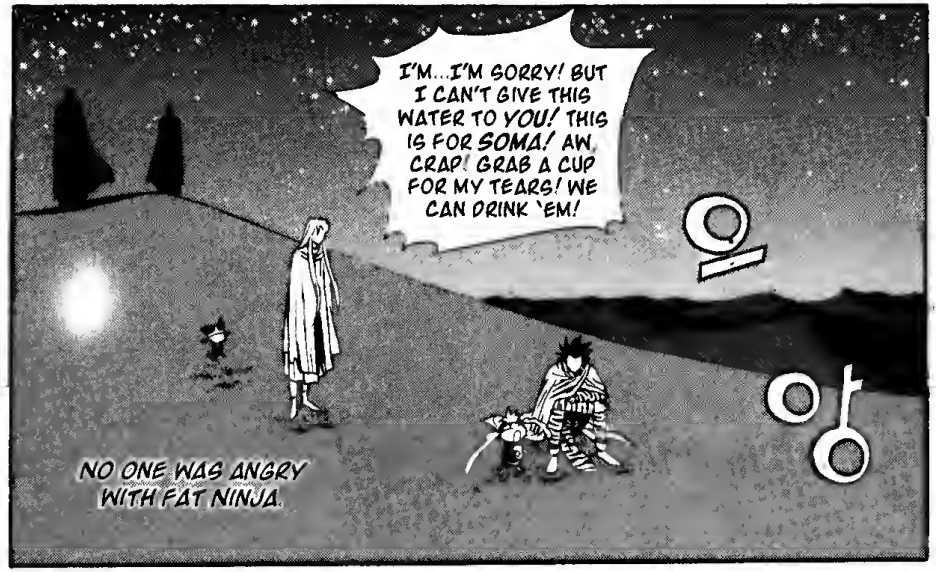
...THERE WAS THAT ONE NIGHT...

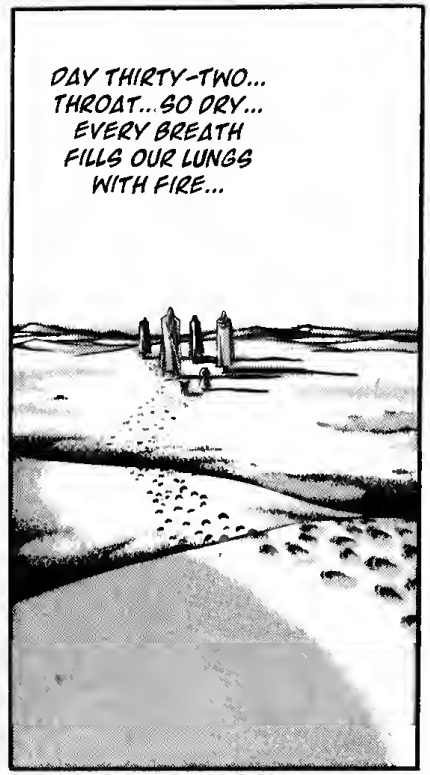
DON'T JUST SIT THERE, YA LUMMOX! HURRY UP AND CHUG IT!

C'MON! BEFORE WE GET CAUGHT...!

THIS IS YOURS! GET IT?! I SAVED IT FOR YOU!


FAT NINJA...?


I'M...I'M SORRY! BUT I CAN'T GIVE THIS WATER TO YOU! THIS IS FOR SOMA! AW, CRAP! GRAB A CUP FOR MY TEARS! WE CAN DRINK 'EM!
NO ONE WAS ANGRY WITH FAT NINJA.


DAY THIRTY-TWO... THROAT...SO DRY... EVERY BREATH FILLS OUR LUNGS WITH FIRE...

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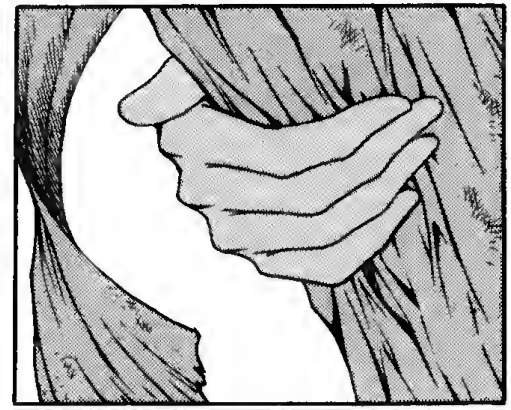
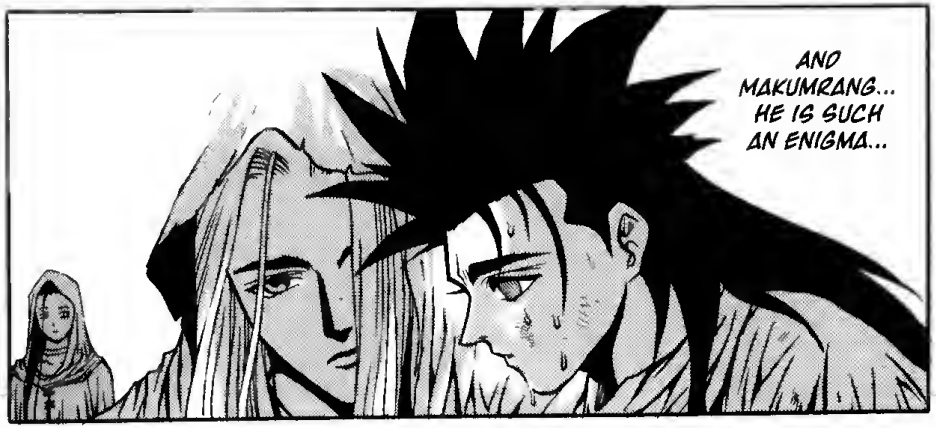
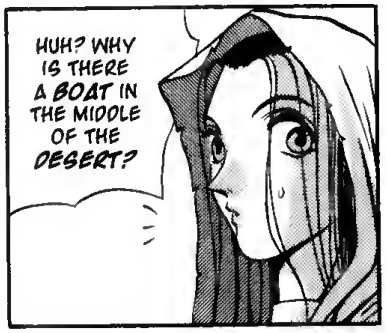
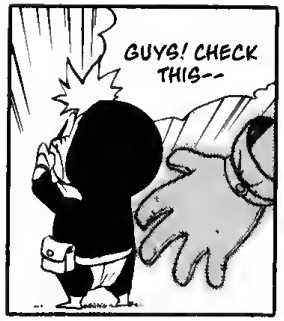


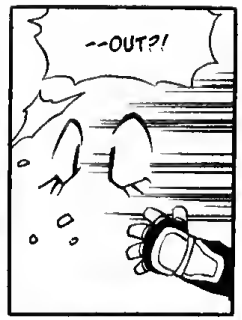

AND MAKUMRANG... HE IS SUCH AN ENIGMA...

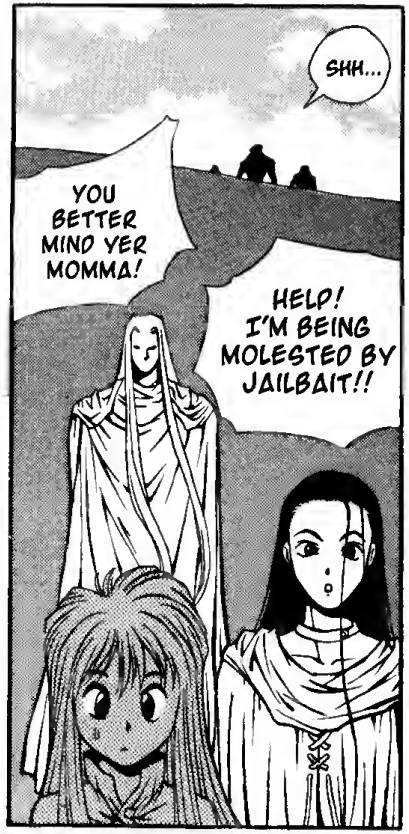

HUH? WHY IS THERE A BOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT?

CRUD! SEEING MIRAGES IS THE FIRST SIGN OF A COOKED BRAIN, AIN'T IT?!

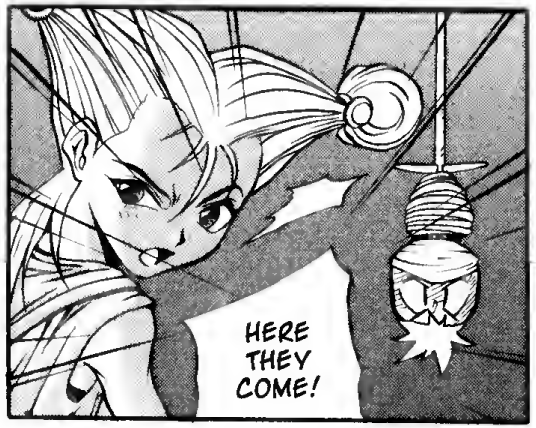
WAIT A SEC--!!
FEELS REAL!
PLAH! TASTES REAL! IT IS REAL!


GUYS! CHECK THIS--


--OUT?!


SHH...
YOU BETTER MIND YER MOMMA!
HELP! I'M BEING MOLESTED BY JAILBAIT!!

QUIET, NOW!
WHO THE HELL?! LEGGO!!
STAY STILL, I SAID!

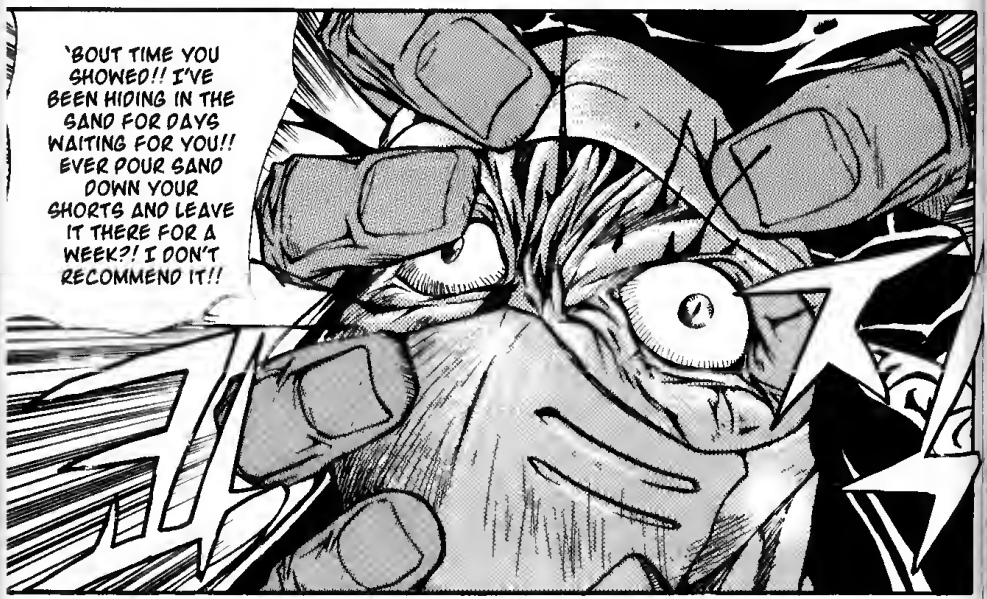

HERE THEY COME!

DIE, SWINE!!

YOU FIRST, PARTNER!
Cha-chak!

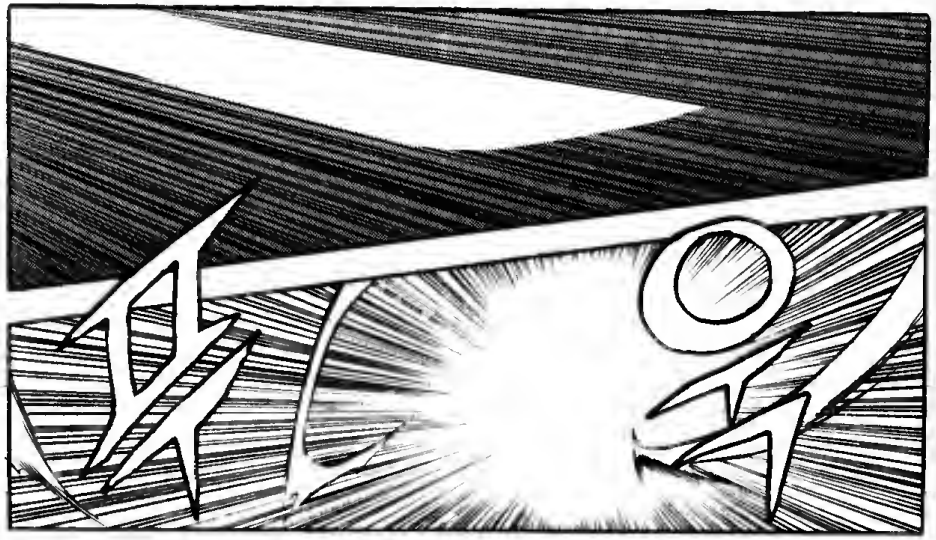
AVAST THERE, SWABS!!
THE LITTLE BRAT SET A TRAP!! ATTACK THE BOAT!!
NO!! IT'S CHULOO-- KING OF DESTRUC-TION!!!
IT'S DONG DONG!!

SO NEEDLESS TO SAY, I BE MORE THAN A LITTLE BIT CRANKY!!


'BOUT TIME YOU SHOWED!! I'VE BEEN HIDING IN THE SAND FOR DAYS WAITING FOR YOU!! EVER POUR SAND DOWN YOUR SHORTS AND LEAVE IT THERE FOR A WEEK?! I DON'T RECOMMEND IT!!

SMARTLY NOW, YOU BILGE RATS! ATTACK ME-- IF YOU CAN! HA HA HA HA!

SCUM!! YOU'VE MEDDLED IN OUR AFFAIRS FOR THE LAST TIME!!



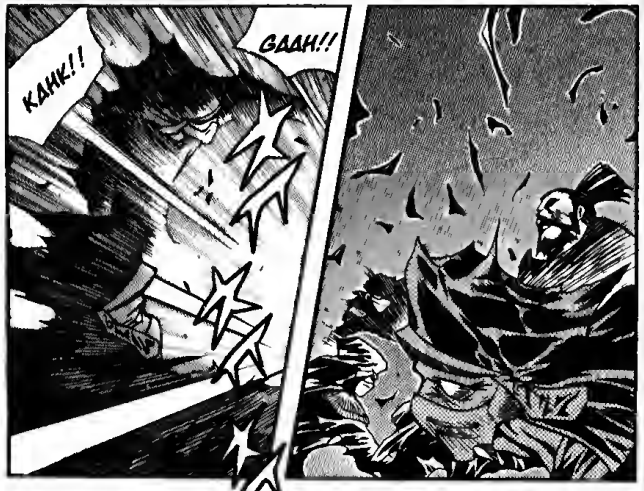
GO!! HIT HIM FROM ALL SIDES!!

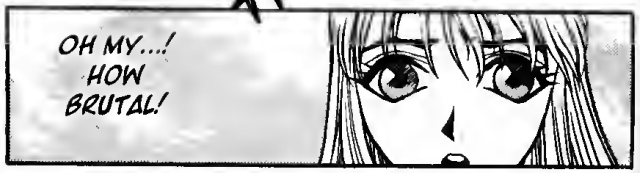
HA! LIKE FLEAS ON AN ELEPHANT!

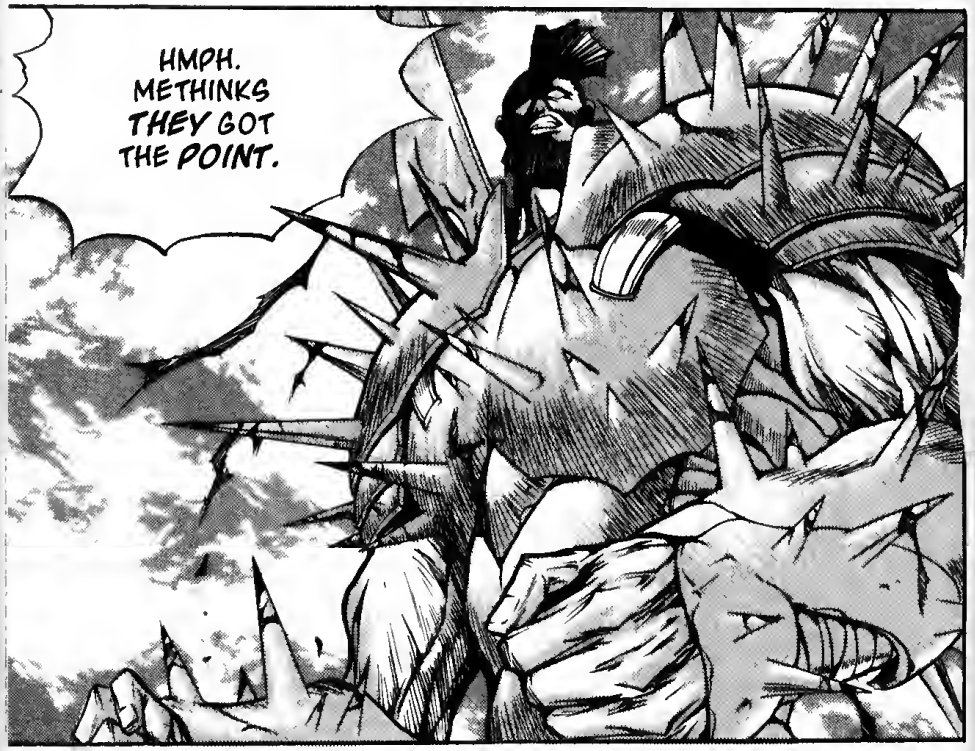
M-MY SWORD...!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO DO?! PART ME HAIR?! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, YOU SCURVY DOGS!!

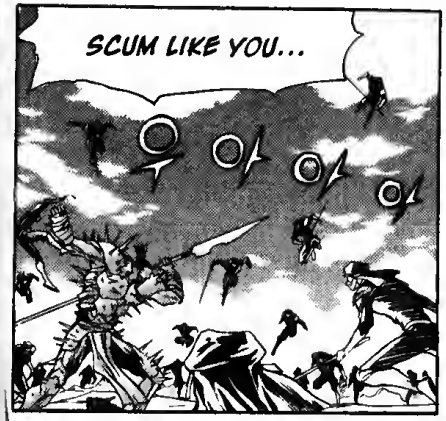
HE'S...HE'S NOT HUMAN!!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT--!! THE SWORD BROKE OVER HIS HEAD!!

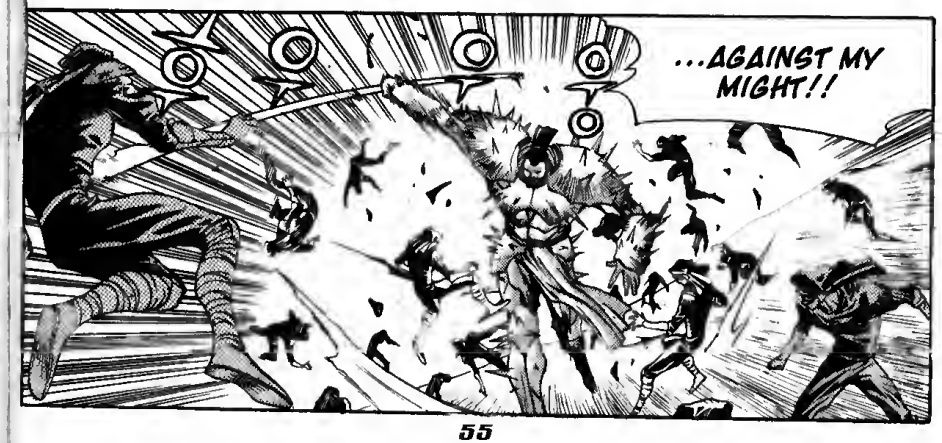




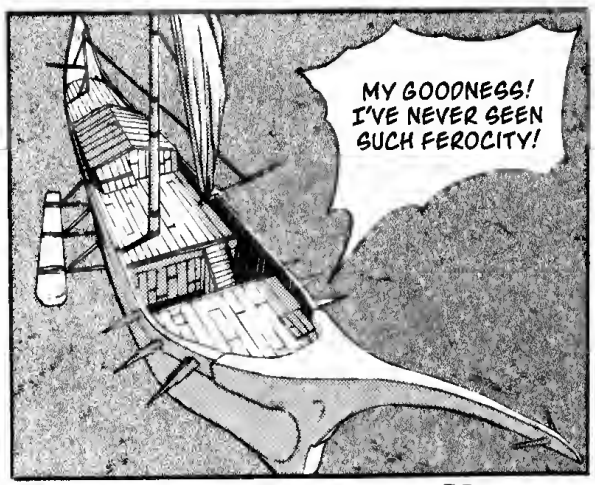


BLADE OF HEAVEN

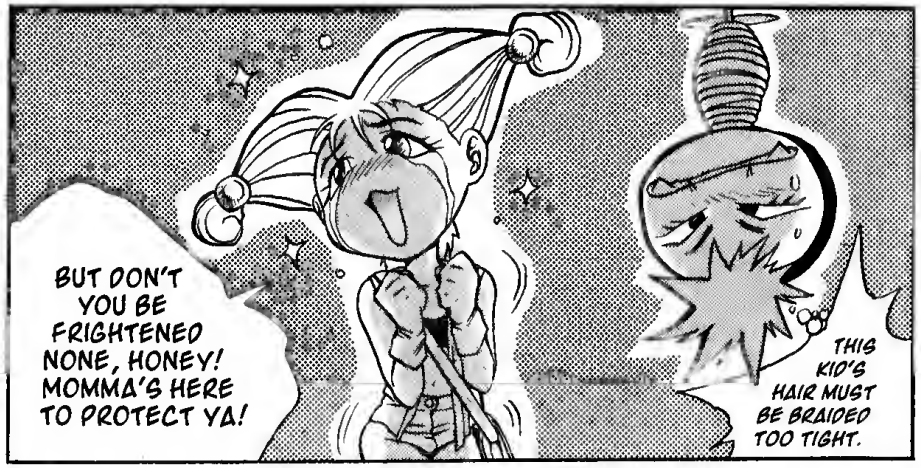


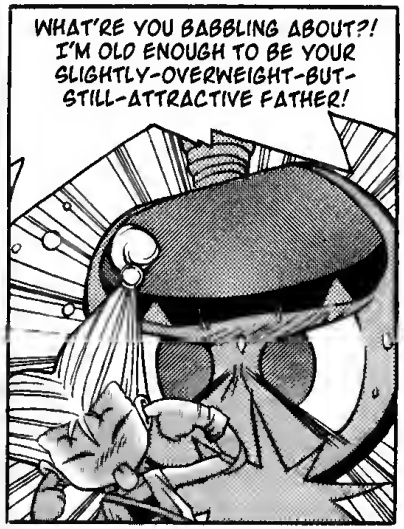


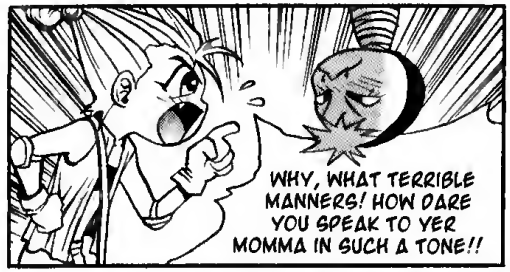
HUMAN BOMB EXPLOSION!!


MY GOODNESS! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH FEROCITY!

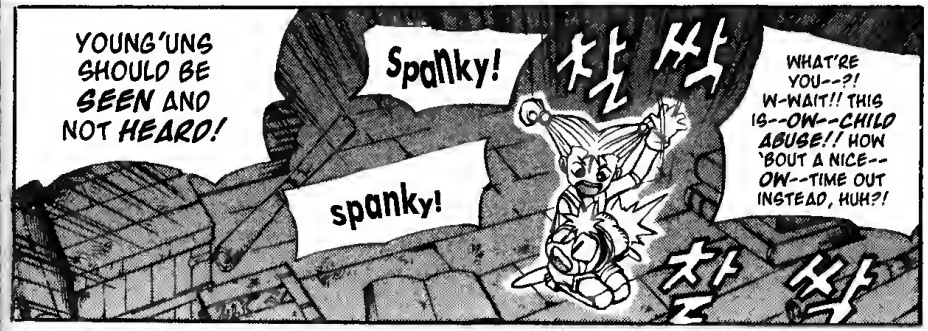
YOU POOR WITTLE THING...YER SWEATIN' LIKE A HEN ON A CHOPPIN' BLOCK!


BUT DON'T YOU BE FRIGHTENED NONE, HONEY! MOMMA'S HERE TO PROTECT YA!
THIS KID'S HAIR MUST BE BRAIDED TOO TIGHT.


WHAT'RE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?! I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR SLIGHTLY-OVERWEIGHT-BUT-STILL-ATTRACTIVE FATHER!


WHY, WHAT TERRIBLE MANNERS! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO YER MOMMA IN SUCH A TONE!!

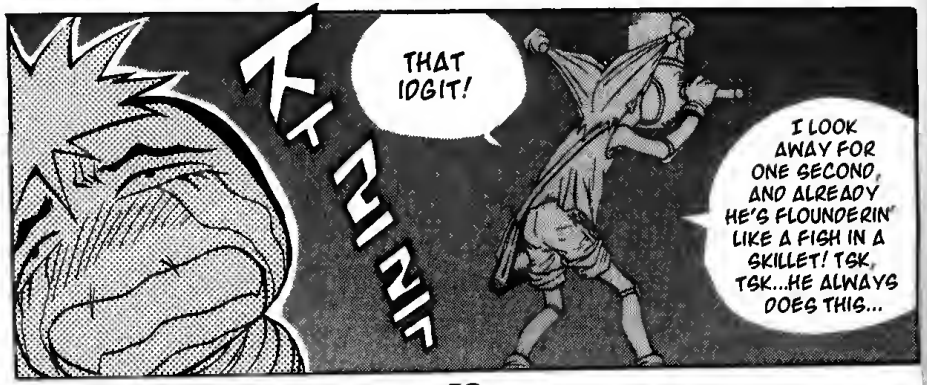
JUST LOOK AT ME! DO INFANTS HAVE FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW?! OR A SATCHEL FILLED WITH THROWING STARS?!


YOUNG'UNS SHOULD BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD!
Spanky!
spanky!
WHAT'RE YOU--?! W-WAIT!! THIS IS--OW--CHILD ABUSE!! HOW 'BOUT A NICE--OW--TIME OUT INSTEAD, HUH?!

RUN ALL YOU LIKE, VERMIN! YOU'LL FIND THAR BE NO ESCAPING THE KING OF DESTRUCTION!! BWAH HA HA HA!!

FALL BACK, MEN!! RETREAT INTO THE SAND!!

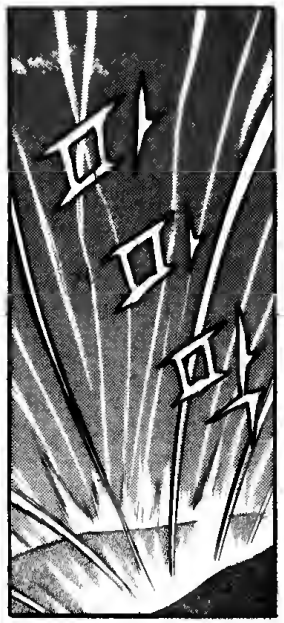
WHA...? WHY YOU FILTHY LITTLE MAGGOTS!!


THAT IDGIT!
I LOOK AWAY FOR ONE SECOND, AND ALREADY HE'S FLOUNDERIN' LIKE A FISH IN A SKILLET! TSK, TSK...HE ALWAYS DOES THIS...

THERE AIN'T NO WAY I'MA LET YOU ESCAPE THAT EASILY! NOT AFTER ALL THE THANGS WE HAD TO ENDURE WHILE WAITIN' FOR YA!!

NO MATTER WHERE THEM GOPHERS BURROW, MOMMA'S EVIL TRACKING ROOS WILL ROOT 'EM UP!

MY EVIL TRACKING ROOS WILL SNIFF YA OUT QUICKER THAN A HOUND DOG IN HEAT!!



HAW! YOU MISSED! SERVES YOU RIGHT!
LIKE HECK I DID!

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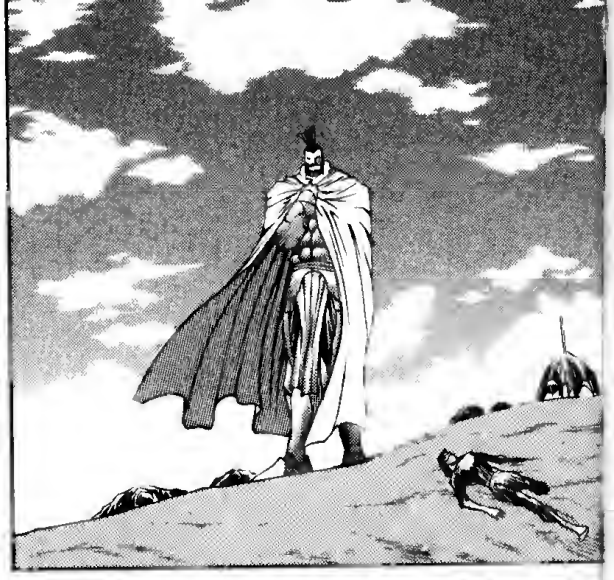

HMPH! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, KID! THOSE GUYS ARE SO DEEP IN THE SAND BY NOW, YOU'LL NEV--

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HUH?! I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! HOW DID YOU--?!

OH, I DOUBT YO' INFANTILE BRAIN CAN COMPREHEND IT...BUT I'LL TRY TO DUMB IT DOWN FOR YA. Y'SEE, WITHIN THE BODIES OF MORTALS IS A VERY MINUTE AMOUNT OF 'LECTRICAL CURRENT. 'LECTRIC CURRENTS HAVE THE POWER TO ATTRACT THEM THERE MAGNETS. THEREFORE, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. BLAH BLAH
...PLACED A MAGNET AT THE TIP OF THE SPEARS, THUG...BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. BLAH? BLAH BLAH! AND THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE! IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY.
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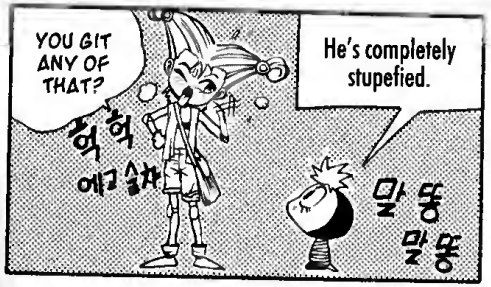
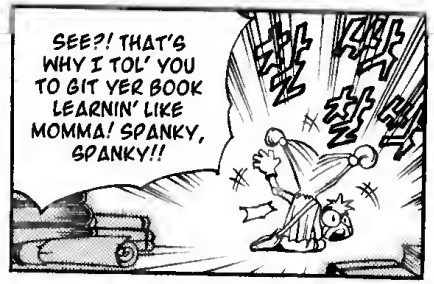
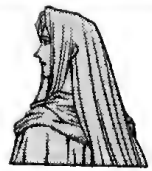

YOU GIT ANY OF THAT?
헉헉
He's completely stupefied.


SEE?! THAT'S WHY I TOL' YOU TO GIT YER BOOK LEARNIN' LIKE MOMMA! SPANKY, SPANKY!!
찰싹
찰싹

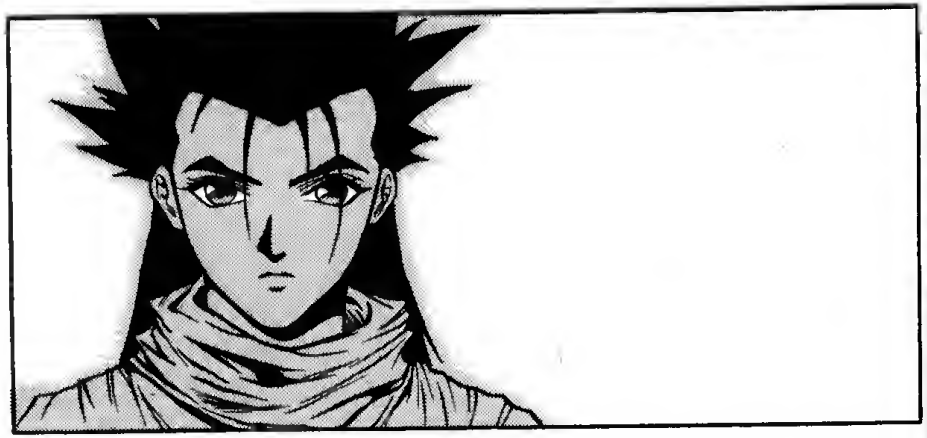


TOO...STRONG... THEY'RE NOTHING...BUT MONSTERS...

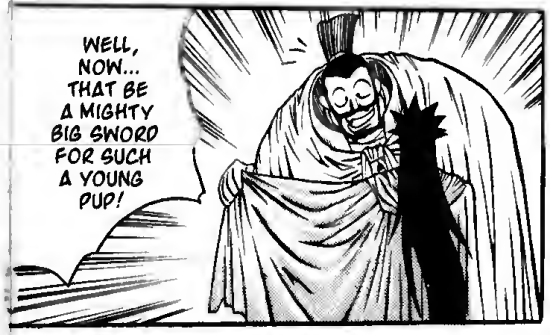
MAYBE SHOWING YOU YOUR OWN GUTS WILL MAKE THINGS CLEARER, EH?!

WHAT PART OF "KING OF DESTRUCTION" DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND, YA SWAB?

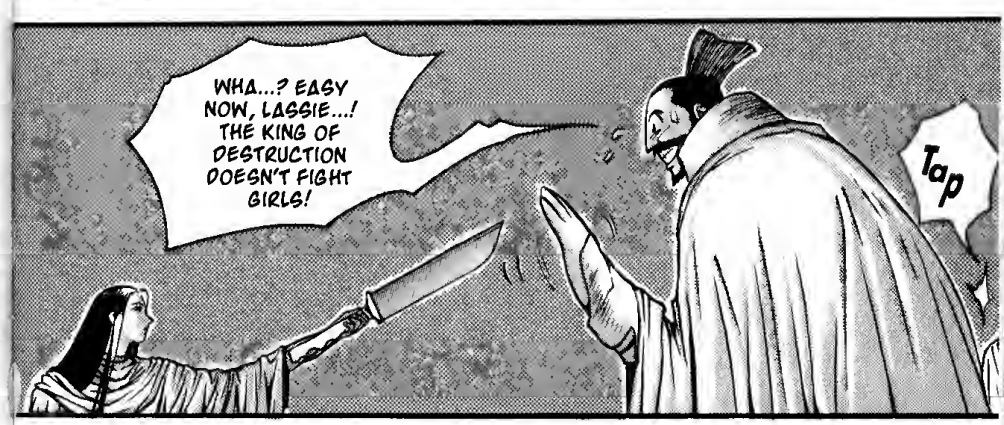
?

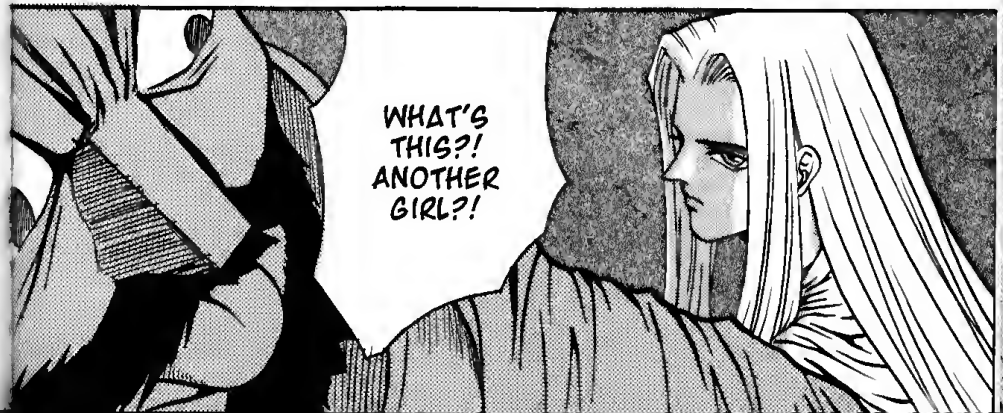


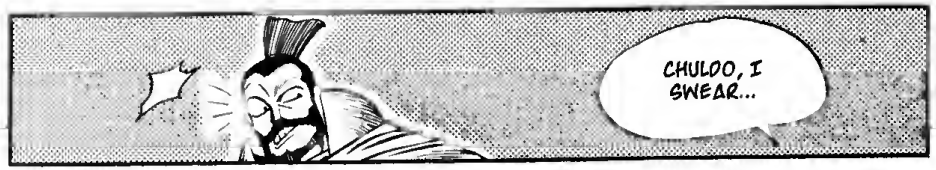
AND JUST WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT, MATEY?! THIS BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN SOMEONE TAKE OUT THE TRASH, OR WHAT?!

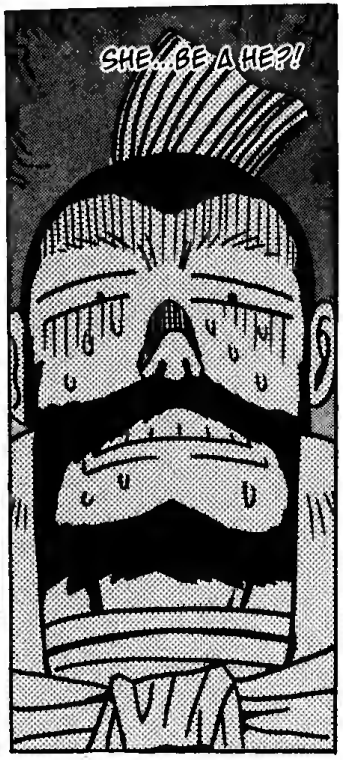

WELL, NOW... THAT BE A MIGHTY BIG SWORD FOR SUCH A YOUNG PUP!

!
ALL THE BETTER TO SEVER YOUR JUGULAR, MY DEAR.


WHA...? EASY NOW, LASSIE...! THE KING OF DESTRUCTION DOESN'T FIGHT GIRLS!
Tap

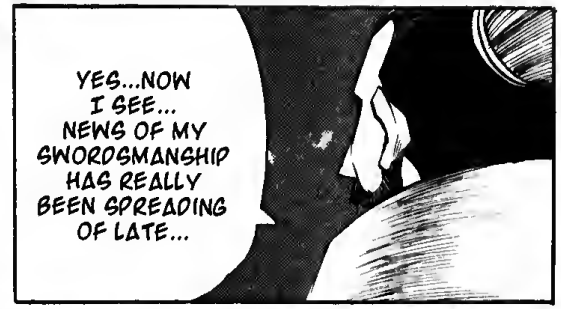

WHAT'S THIS?! ANOTHER GIRL?!



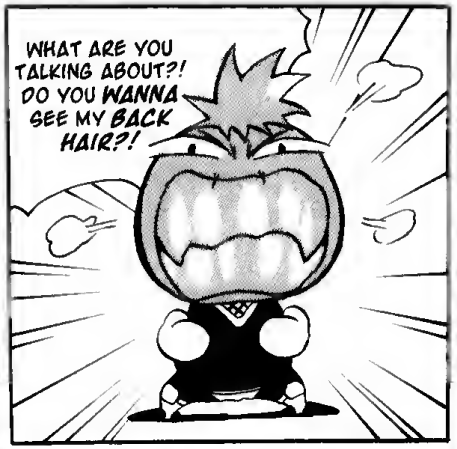


The sound of his loughter.

A sudden silence.



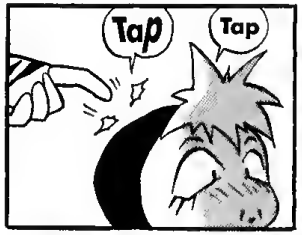
WAIT! AT LEAST GIVE US SOME WATER BEFORE YOU LEAVE!


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! DO YOU WANNA SEE MY BACK HAIR?!

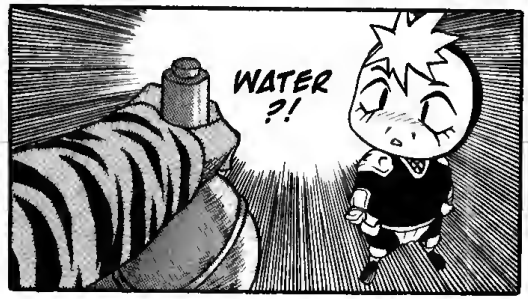
DID YOU BURP, OR DID THAT BABY JUST SAY SOMETHING? I CAN'T STAND SNOTTY LITTLE BABIES...

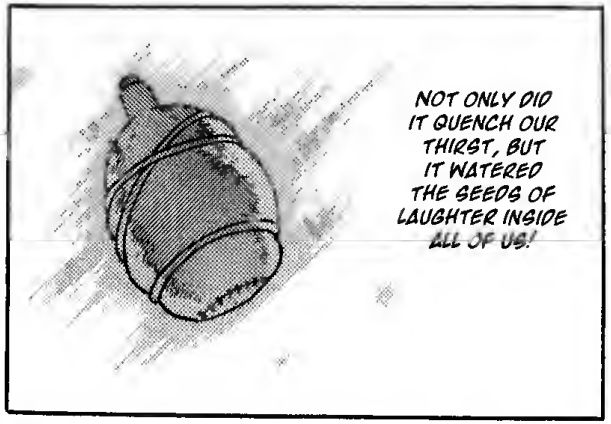
PWAH HA HA HA! I REALLY AM FAMOUS! EVEN A BABY WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE...!!
BYE NOW, BABY! YOU BE GOOD AND EAT YER GREENS WHILE MOMMA'S GONE, YA HEAR?
Of 71

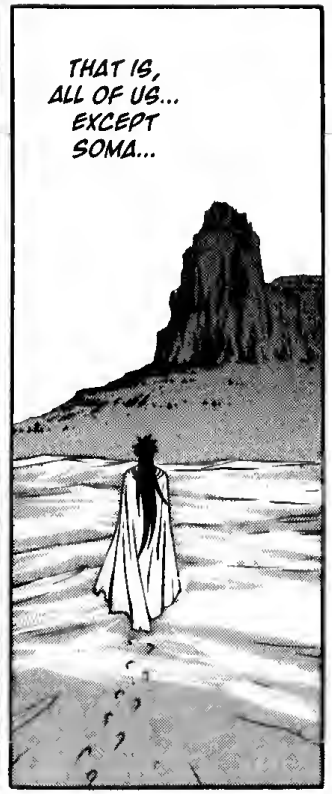
WANNA KNOW THE FUNNY THING? I JUST NOW REALIZED THEY'RE SAILING AWAY ON SAND...


Tap
Tap

INDEED, IT WAS WATER. WATER THAT EVEN FAT NINJA, THE WORLD'S GREATEST THIEF, COULDN'T PILFER.


WATER ?!

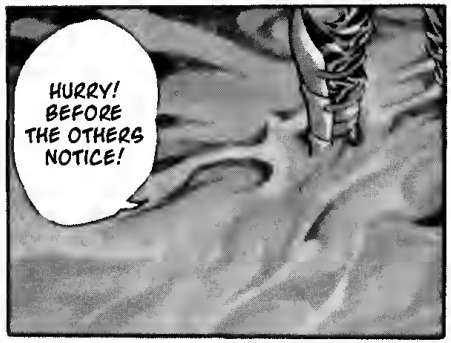

NOT ONLY DID IT QUENCH OUR THIRST, BUT IT WATERED THE SEEDS OF LAUGHTER INSIDE ALL OF US!

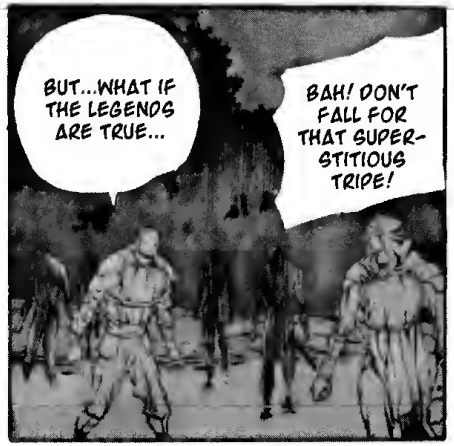

THAT IS, ALL OF US... EXCEPT SOMA...

PANT
PANT
HUFF
LOOK! OVER THERE! IT'S A VILLAGE!
OOH! LOOKIT THE WAY IT'S SHAPED...! IT LOOKS LIKE A BIRD EMBRACING AN EGG!!
THERE'S A LAKE, TOO!!
IT'S... CALLING ME...

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. JUST ANSWER OUR QUESTION.
"OUR"...?
SO THERE ARE OTHERS? BUT WHERE...?
I COULDN'T EVEN SENSE HIS PRESENCE! THIS MAN MUST BE QUITE A WARRIOR!
WE DON'T WISH TO HURT YOU.

WE'VE COME TO TAKE BACK THE BLADE OF HEAVEN.
THEY MUST BE FROM THE EASTERN RACE!


HURRY! BEFORE THE OTHERS NOTICE!


BUT...WHAT IF THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE...
BAH! DON'T FALL FOR THAT SUPER-STITIOUS TRIPE!

PEOPLE SPREAD THOSE STORIES TO HIDE THE FACT THAT SOMEWHERE IN THAT LAKE IS A GREAT TREASURE!

UH... BOSS?

THERE'RE PEOPLE COMIN' OUT THE WATER.

NO KIDDING! MORON! HEY-- YOU THERE!

DO YOU REALIZE WHO WE ARE?!
IDENTIFY YOUR-SELVES!!

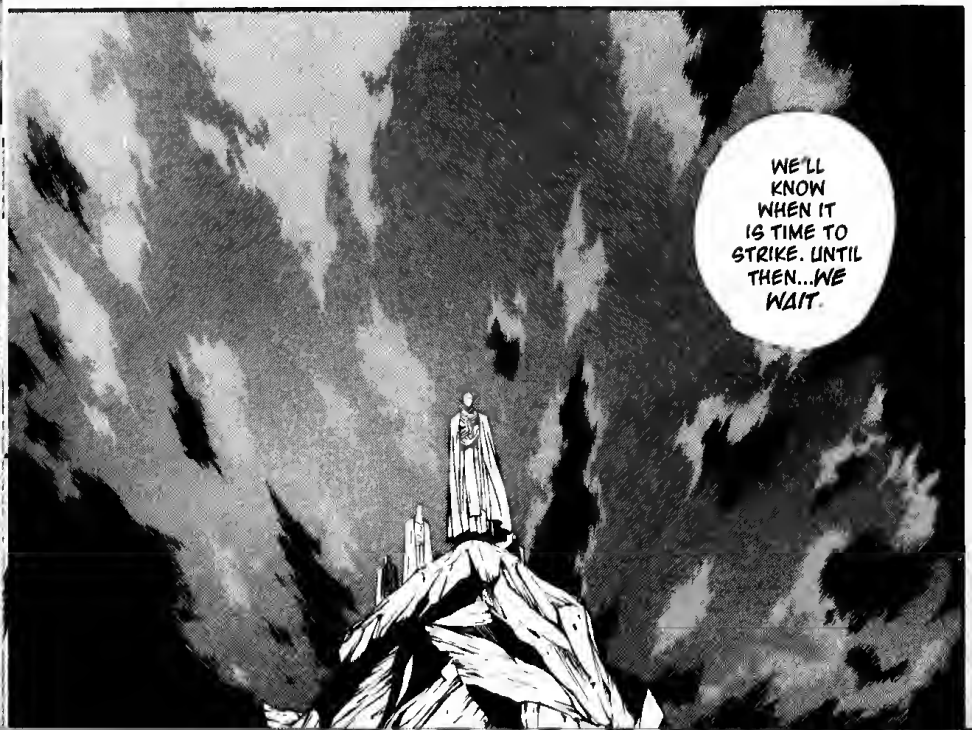
Bloop!
Bloop!
FOOLISH MORTALS!!
DROP THE ACT, PAL! I KNOW A FRAUD WHEN I SEE ONE! YOU JUST WANNA SCARE US AWAY SO YOU CAN FIND THE TREASURE!
THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE FOUND, FOOLISH MORTAL... IS DEATH!

D-DID HE JUST EAT...HIS F-FACE...?

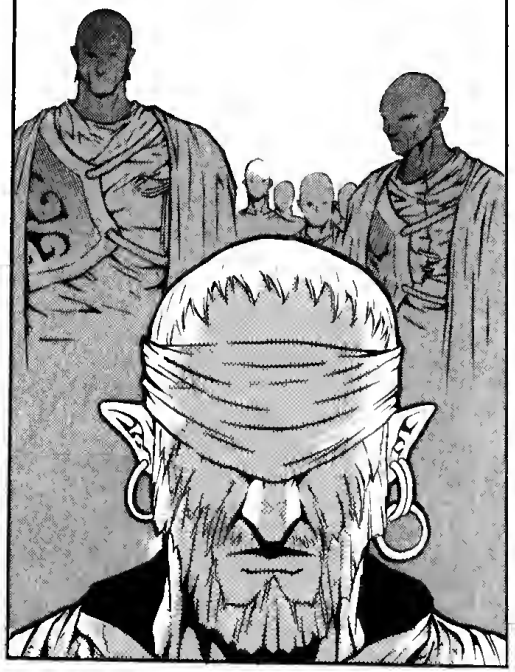
NO!!

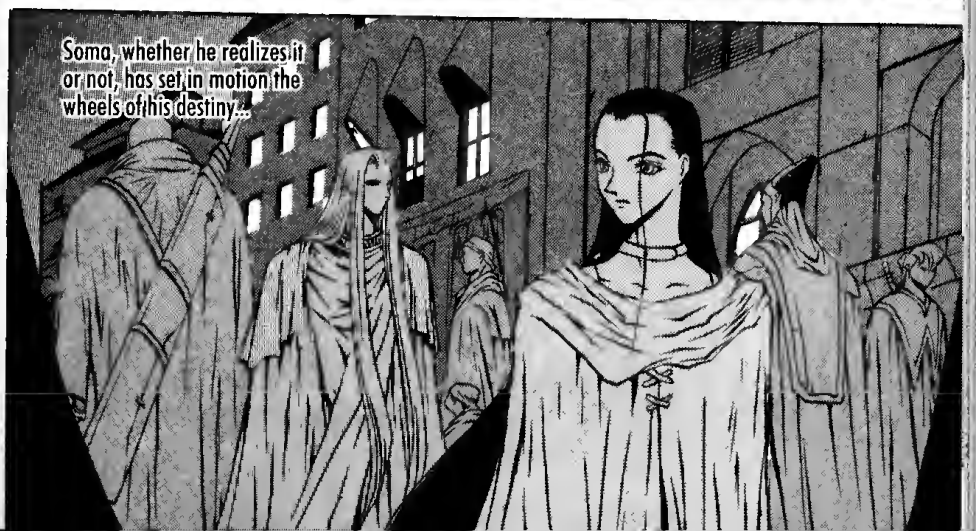
MASTER SHIMME...
...PLEASE GIVE US YOUR ORDERS!

PATIENCE.



These men, whose singular identities remain an enigma, are known collectively as "The Defenders." It is rumored they have the blood of wild beasts coursing through their veins. Their leader, a blind man named Shimme, is known for his ability to see the future of any person he meets.

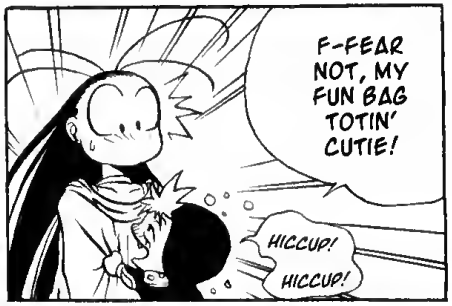


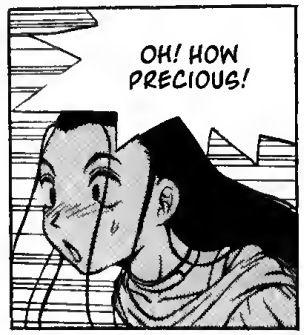


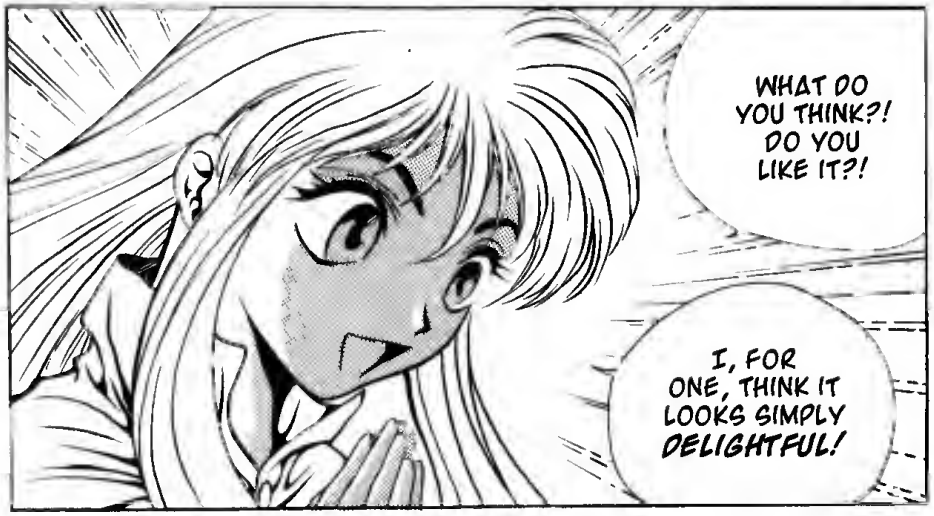
TALK ABOUT MENACING... EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, THERE ARE WARRIORS.
IT'S BEST NOT TO MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH THEM.

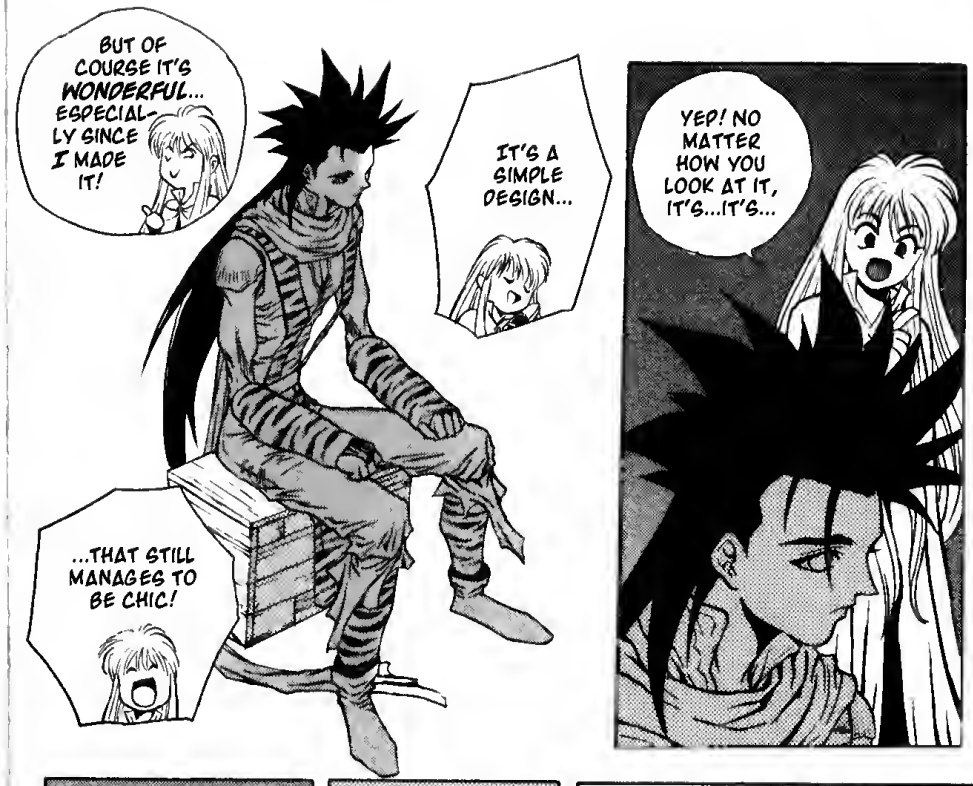
HIC-CUP!
HEH HEH...! THEY'RE ALL... HICCUP! J-JEALOUS OF OUR LOVE... HICCUP!

YOU DRUNKEN MIDGET! WILL YOU STOP TOUCHING ME?!
오~
마아~
달림


F-FEAR NOT, MY FUN BAG TOTIN' CUTIE!
HICCUP!
HICCUP!

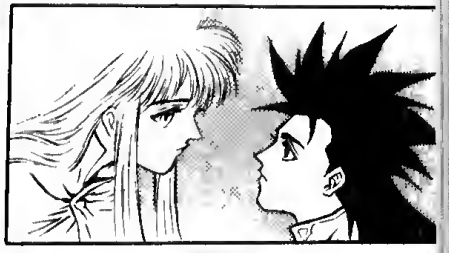

OH! HOW PRECIOUS!

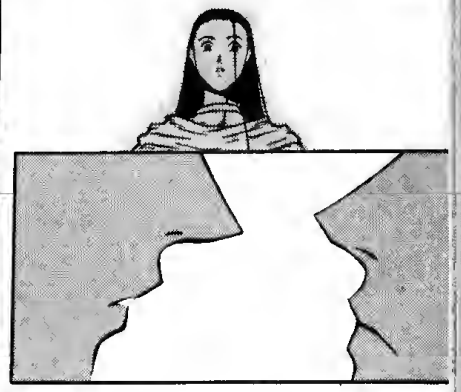

WHAT DO YOU THINK?! DO YOU LIKE IT?!
I, FOR ONE, THINK IT LOOKS SIMPLY DELIGHTFUL!

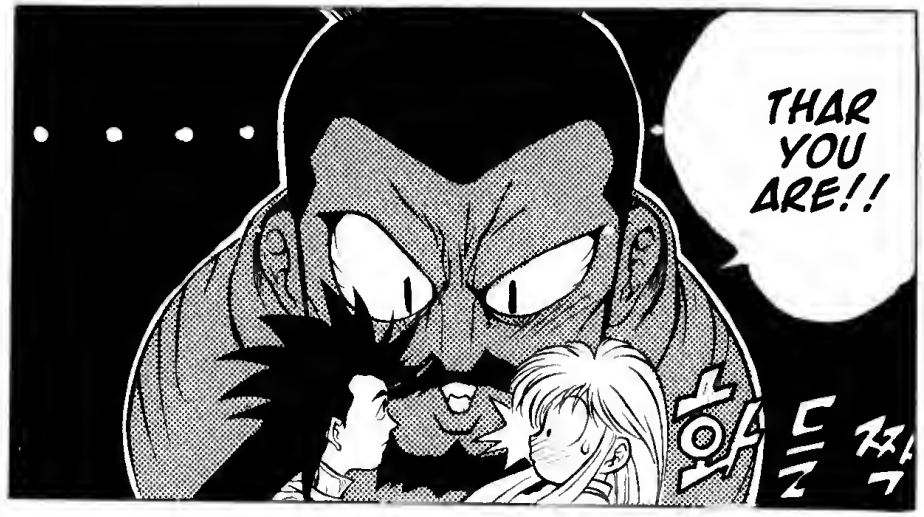

BUT OF COURSE IT'S WONDERFUL... ESPECIAL-LY SINCE I MADE IT!
IT'S A SIMPLE DESIGN...
YEP! NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S...IT'S...
...THAT STILL MANAGES TO BE CHIC!

OH...

...SOMA...

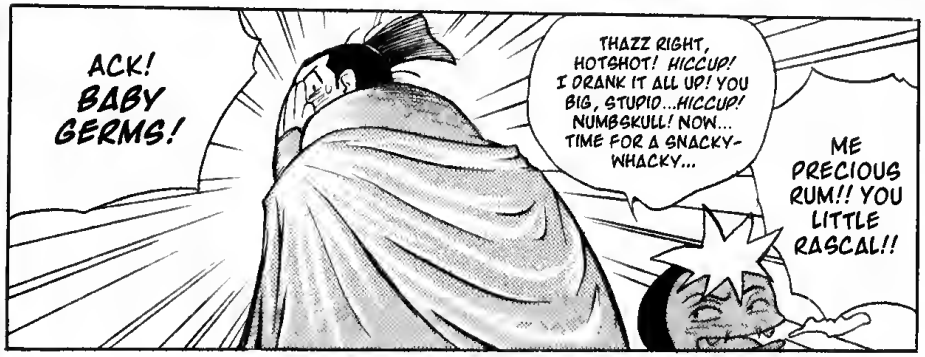





THAR YOU ARE!!

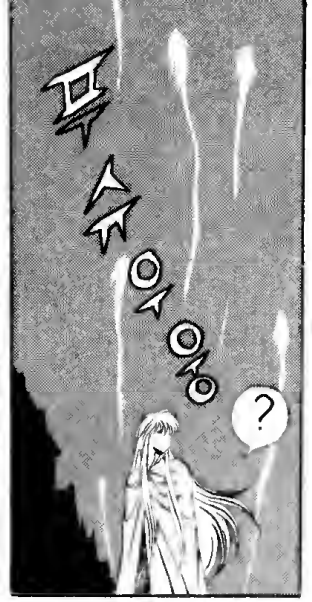
HOW DARE YOU STEAL ME RUM!
GIVE IT BACK THIS INSTANT, LASSIE!
RUM...? WHAT RUM...?

YOU WANT YOUR RUM? THEN TAKE IT!


ACK! BABY GERMS!
THAZZ RIGHT, HOTSHOT! HICCUP! I DRANK IT ALL UP! YOU BIG, STUPID...HICCUP! NUMBSKULL! NOW... TIME FOR A SNACKY-WHACKY...
ME PRECIOUS RUM!! YOU LITTLE RASCAL!!

OH, MY! YOUR CHEEKS ARE SO ROSY! I GUESS IT'S BECUZ OF ALL THAT THERE BOOZE YOU DRANK, HUH?
SOMEONE KILL ME...!

HOW-EVER...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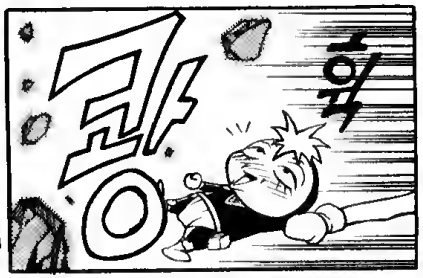
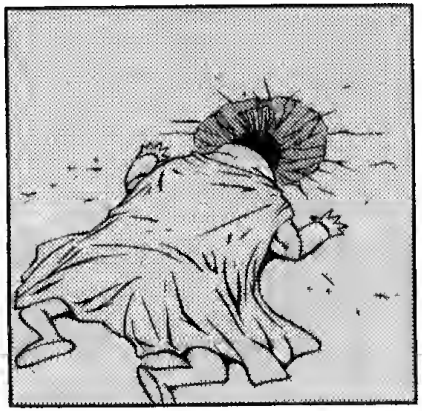
...DISCIPLININ' A CHILD IS A LONG AND ARDUOUS TASK!
NAUGHTY BABY! ALREADY DRINKIN' AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE...! SPANKY, SPANKY!

LOOK! IT'S THE PROCESSION OF THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE!
MOVE ASIDE, PEOPLE! THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE IS COMING THROUGH!

HERE BE A BABY GAME YOU MAY LIKE...IT'S CALLED, "HEAD-BUTT THE BABY UNTIL HE'S A MERE SMEAR ON THE GROUND"!!

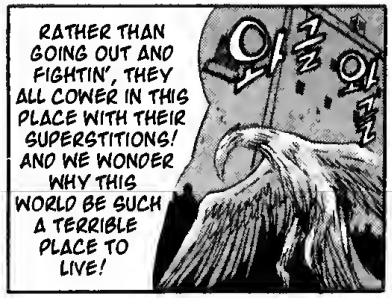




HEY... THANKS FOR S-SAVIN' M--WAIT!! IT'S YOU?!

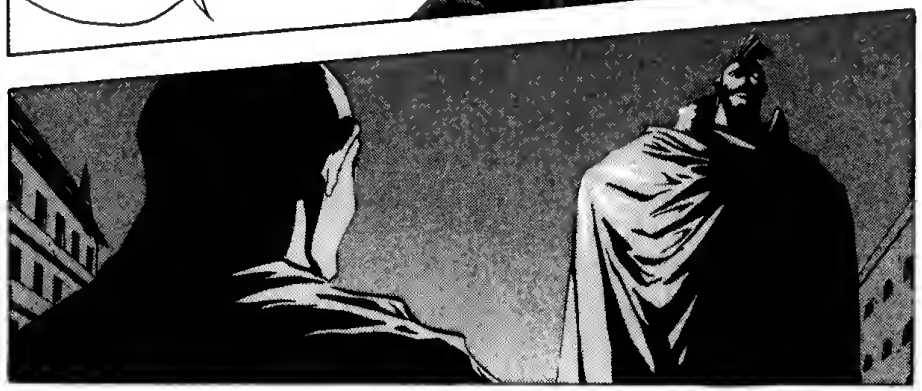
THAT'S RIIIGHT! MOMMA TO THE WESCUE!! MMM-MAH! I'M GONNA SPANK YER WITTLE CHEEKS WITH MY LIPS, YES I WILL!
HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD LITTLE BABY WHILE MOMMA WAS GONE?

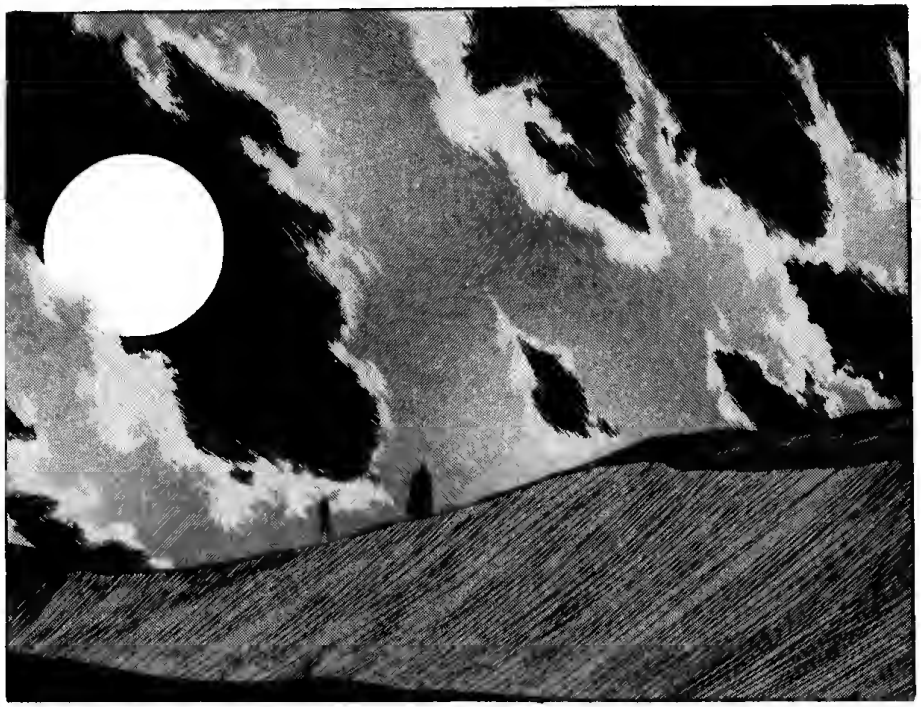
DOLTS! THE WORLD IS RIFE WITH DEMONS, BUT THEY'RE CELEBRATIN'! FESTIVAL MY HAIRY BUTT!
FESTIVAL ...?


RATHER THAN GOING OUT AND FIGHTIN', THEY ALL COWER IN THIS PLACE WITH THEIR SUPERSTITIONS! AND WE WONDER WHY THIS WORLD BE SUCH A TERRIBLE PLACE TO LIVE!

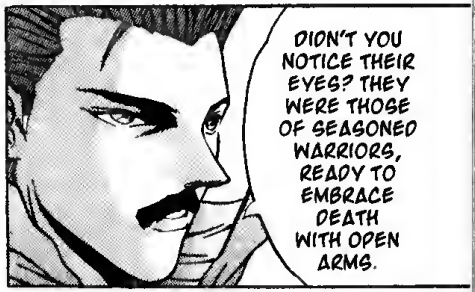
WHAT?! DID I OFFEND YOU MANGY DOGS?!

YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS IS MOST... DISAGREEABLE. PLEASE...REFRAIN FROM FURTHER COMMENTS.



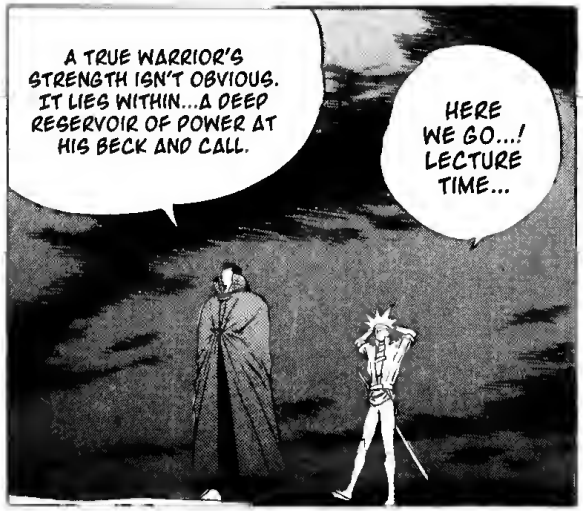


TAN...I DON'T GET IT. THOSE TWO WERE THE KEY TO FINDING THE BLADE--BUT YET YOU LET THEM GO.
NO MATTER WHAT WE DID TO THOSE TWO...THEY STILL WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD US ANYTHING.

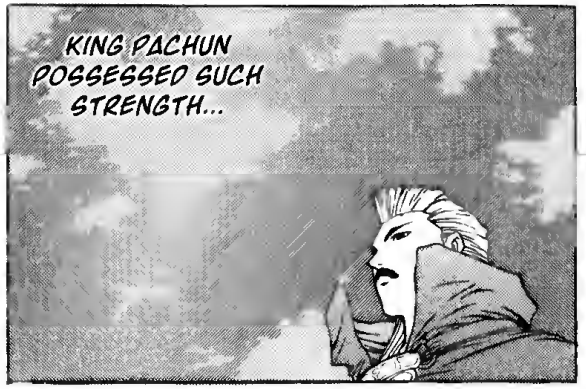

DIDN'T YOU NOTICE THEIR EYES? THEY WERE THOSE OF SEASONED WARRIORS, READY TO EMBRACE DEATH WITH OPEN ARMS.

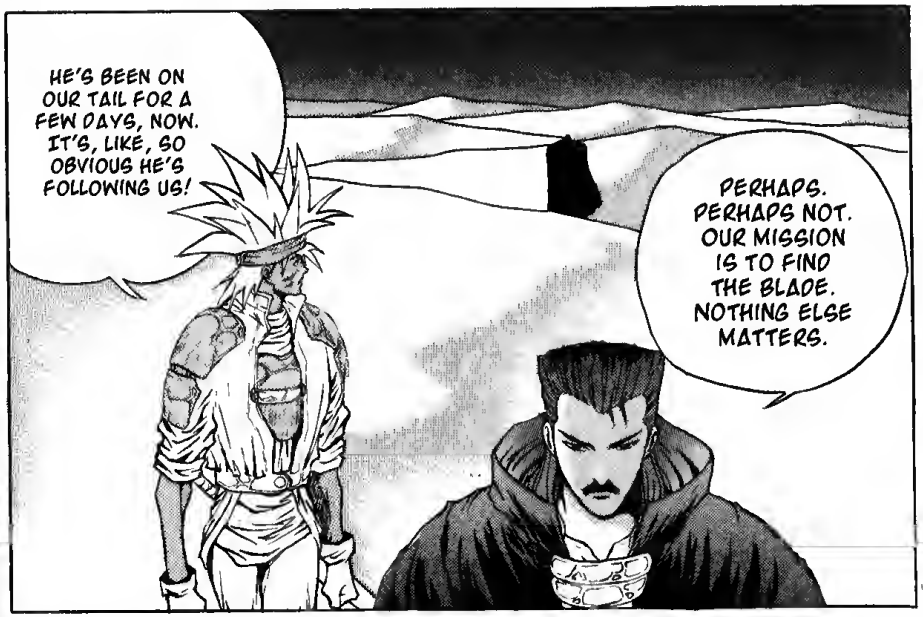
YEAH, WELL, THEY JUST LOOKED LIKE A COUPLE'A GEEZERS TO ME. 'SIDES-- NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO WITHSTAND MY SEVEN-TEN TORPEDO ATTACK.

SIGH... YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.


A TRUE WARRIOR'S STRENGTH ISN'T OBVIOUS. IT LIES WITHIN...A DEEP RESERVOIR OF POWER AT HIS BECK AND CALL.
HERE WE GO...! LECTURE TIME...

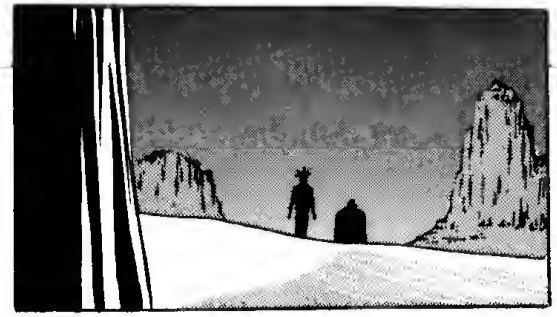
HEY... THAT GUY BACK THERE? HE'S REALLY GETTIN' ON MY NERVES


KING PACHUN POSSESSED SUCH STRENGTH...


HE'S BEEN ON OUR TAIL FOR A FEW DAYS, NOW. IT'S, LIKE, SO OBVIOUS HE'S FOLLOWING US!
PERHAPS. PERHAPS NOT. OUR MISSION IS TO FIND THE BLADE. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

STILL... I'M KINDA HOPIN' HE DOES MAKE A MOVE.

A DECENT FIGHT'LL DO WONDERS TO BREAK UP THE MONOTONY AROUND HERE.



Three mysterious travelers...
Their arrival at Bird Village ushers in a powerful, sand-laden wind...

COME AGAIN, BALDY?
LISTEN... WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK AND LAY WITH YOUR MOTHER. THE GLARE FROM YOUR NOGGIN IS BLINDING ME.

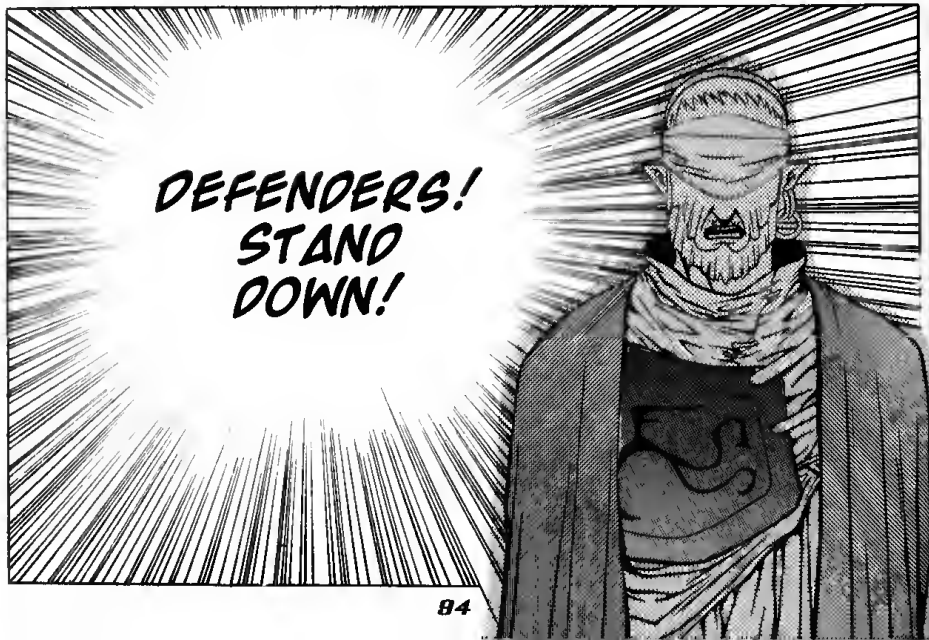
TELL ME, BIG MOUTH--IS YOUR SWORD AS SHARP AS YOUR SLIMY TONGUE?

DON'T KID YOURSELF, MATEY! THERE BE ONLY ONE PERSON WHO BE WORTHY TO CHALLENGE ME--AND YOU'RE NOT HIM!

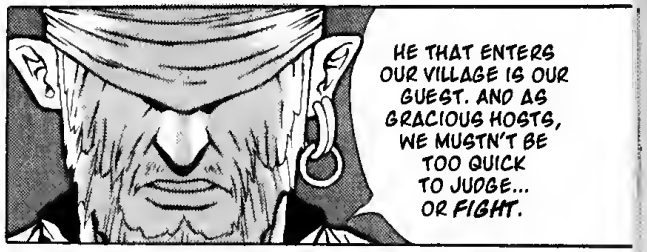
I HAVEN'T EVEN MET THE BLOKE--BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE NOT WORTHY ENOUGH TO SMELL HIS FARTS

BASTARD! YOU'LL FACE ME--OR DIE!!

WHY YOU LITTLE...! OF ALL THE GALL...!


DEFENDERS! STAND DOWN!

MASTER SHIMME...!!


HE THAT ENTERS OUR VILLAGE IS OUR GUEST. AND AS GRACIOUS HOSTS, WE MUSTN'T BE TOO QUICK TO JUDGE... OR FIGHT.

SO LEMME GUESS, OLD MAN--YOU BE THEIR RINGLEADER... RIGHT?
RING... LEADER ...?

HA HA HA...! HARDLY! I'M MERELY OLDER...AND AS YOU HAVE WITNESSED, SLIGHTLY WISER.

WHA HA HA HA!! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND, EH, OLD TIMER?! I LIKE YOU--SO I'LL LET THAT BALD FOOL LIVE--THIS TIME.
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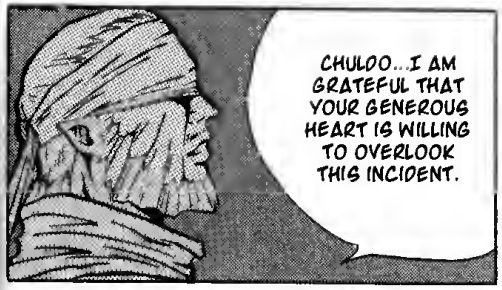
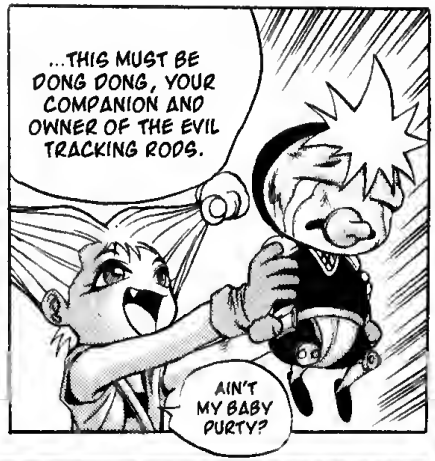

CHULDO...I AM GRATEFUL THAT YOUR GENEROUS HEART IS WILLING TO OVERLOOK THIS INCIDENT.

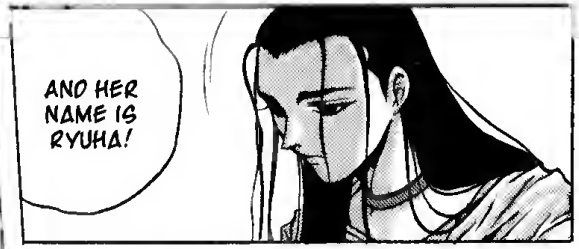
HUH?! H-HOW...HOW DID YOU KNOW ME NAME...?!

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? ANYONE CAN LOOK AT YOUR FISTS AND SEE THAT YOU ARE CHULDO, KING OF DESTRUCTION.
AND...

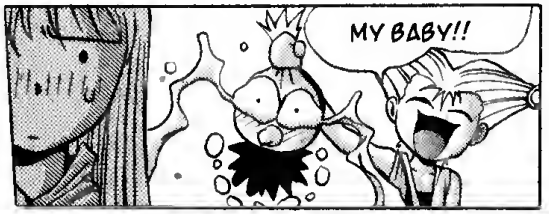

...THIS MUST BE DONG DONG, YOUR COMPANION AND OWNER OF THE EVIL TRACKING RODS.
AIN'T MY BABY PURTY?

AND YOU PEOPLE ARE...?

OOOH! I'M A PRINCESS!


AND HER NAME IS RYUHA!

AND THIS IS...

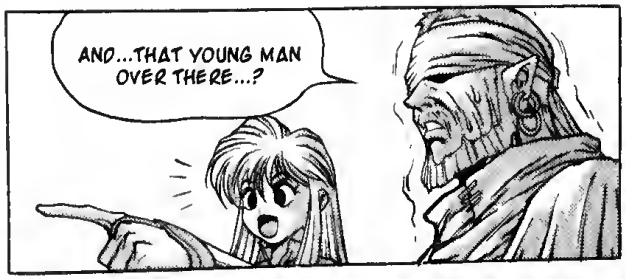

MY BABY!!

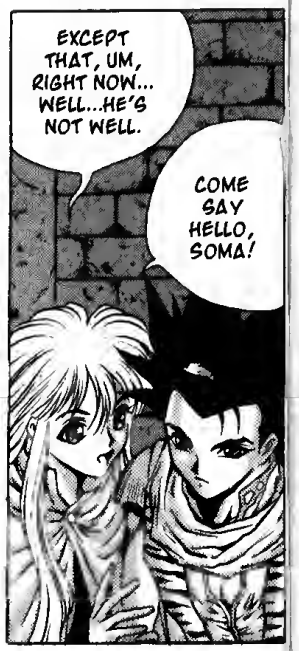
AND...

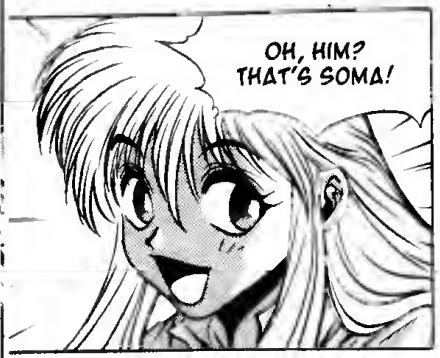
OH...! MAKUMRANG ISN'T HERE...
WHERE'D HE RUN OFF TO...?

INTEREST-ING...

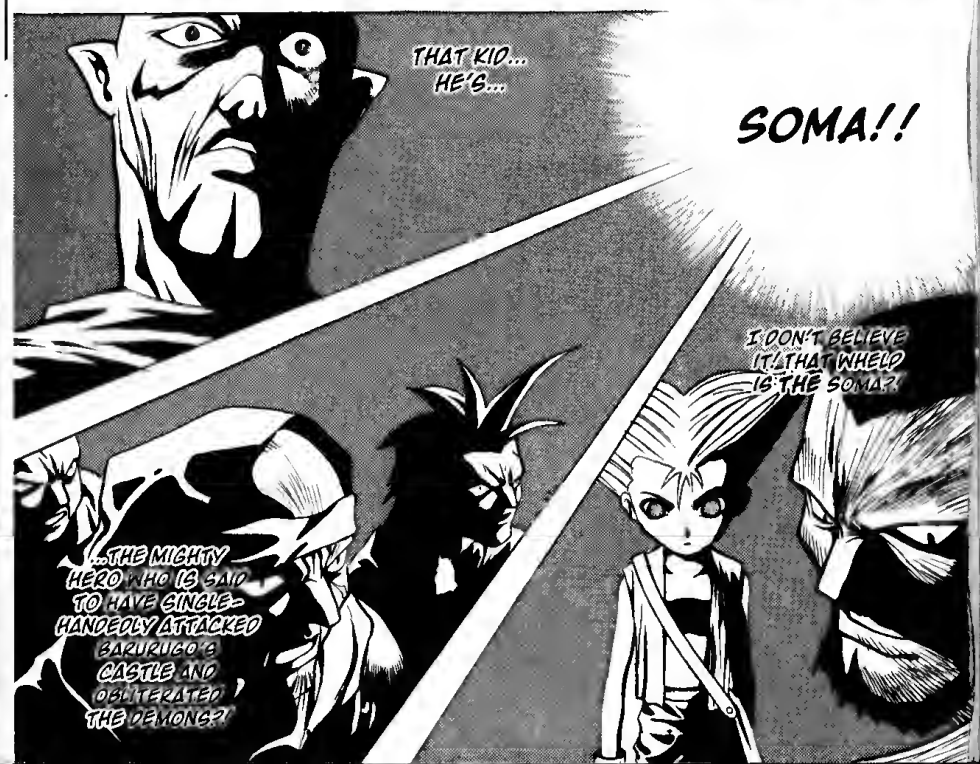
EVEN MY MIND'S EYE CANNOT READ HIS FUTURE...!


AND...THAT YOUNG MAN OVER THERE...?


EXCEPT THAT, UM, RIGHT NOW... WELL...HE'S NOT WELL.
COME SAY HELLO, SOMA!


OH, HIM? THAT'S SOMA!

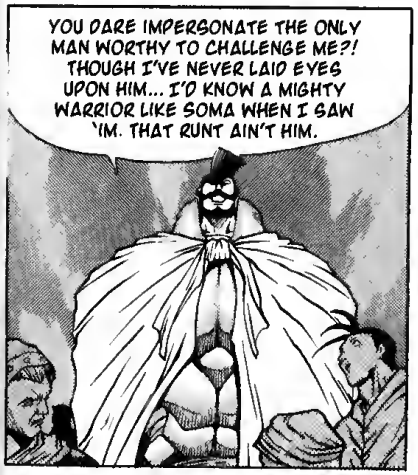
SOMA!!


THAT KID... HE'S...
SOMA!!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THAT WHELP IS THE SOMA?!
...THE MIGHTY HERO WHO IS SAID TO HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY ATTACKED BARURICO'S CASTLE AND OBLITERATED THE DEMONS?!

DO YOU MEAN SOMA--AS IN THE "WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN" SOMA?
HUH...? WELL, YEAH. FUNNY...I THOUGHT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO CALLED HIMSELF THAT!
WHAT? DO YOU KNOW HIM?

HMPH! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! HOW DARE YOU MAKE SUCH FALSE CLAIMS!

SAY MISTER...ARE YOU REALLY SOMA, THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN?
I HEARD YOU HAD WINGS ON YOUR BACK AND WERE AS TALL AS AN OAK!


YOU DARE IMPERSONATE THE ONLY MAN WORTHY TO CHALLENGE ME?! THOUGH I'VE NEVER LAID EYES UPON HIM... I'D KNOW A MIGHTY WARRIOR LIKE SOMA WHEN I SAW 'IM. THAT RUNT AIN'T HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M NOT LYING!

TALK BE CHEAP.
THERE BE ONLY ONE WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE.

A DUEL. ONE ON ONE. IF I LOSE, I'LL SERVE YOU AS MY MASTER. HOWEVER...
...IF I WIN... THE WORMS BE HAVIN' YOU FOR SUPPER TONIGHT!

ON GUARD, RUNT!!

DON'T YOU TOUCH HIM!!
EH?!

PWAH! THAT FLIMSY METAL STICK BE NO MATCH FOR ME ARMOR, LASSIE!

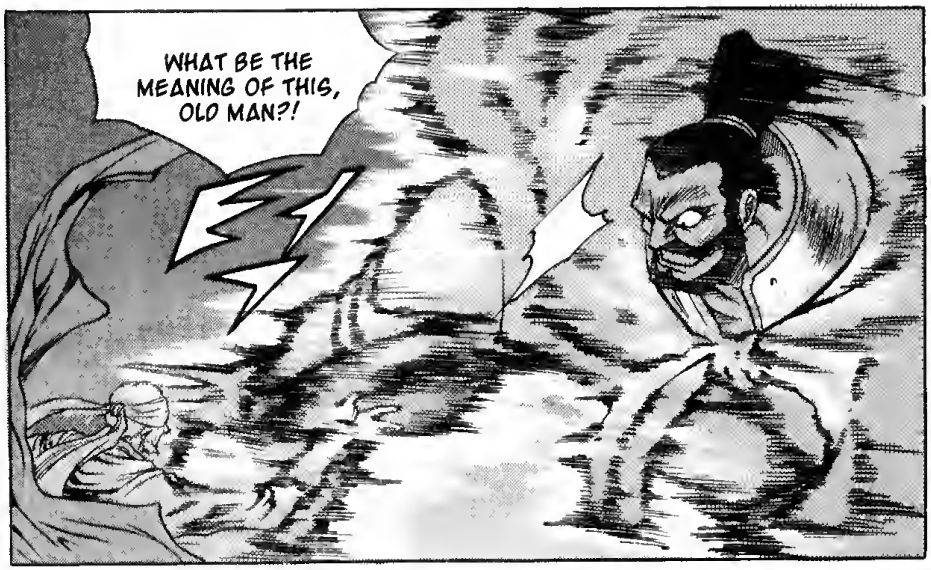
SO BACK TO THE KITCHEN WITH YA!

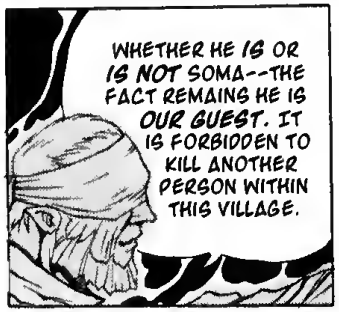
RYUHA!!

THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN STOP ME--

--BE THE REAL SOMA!!

STOP!!

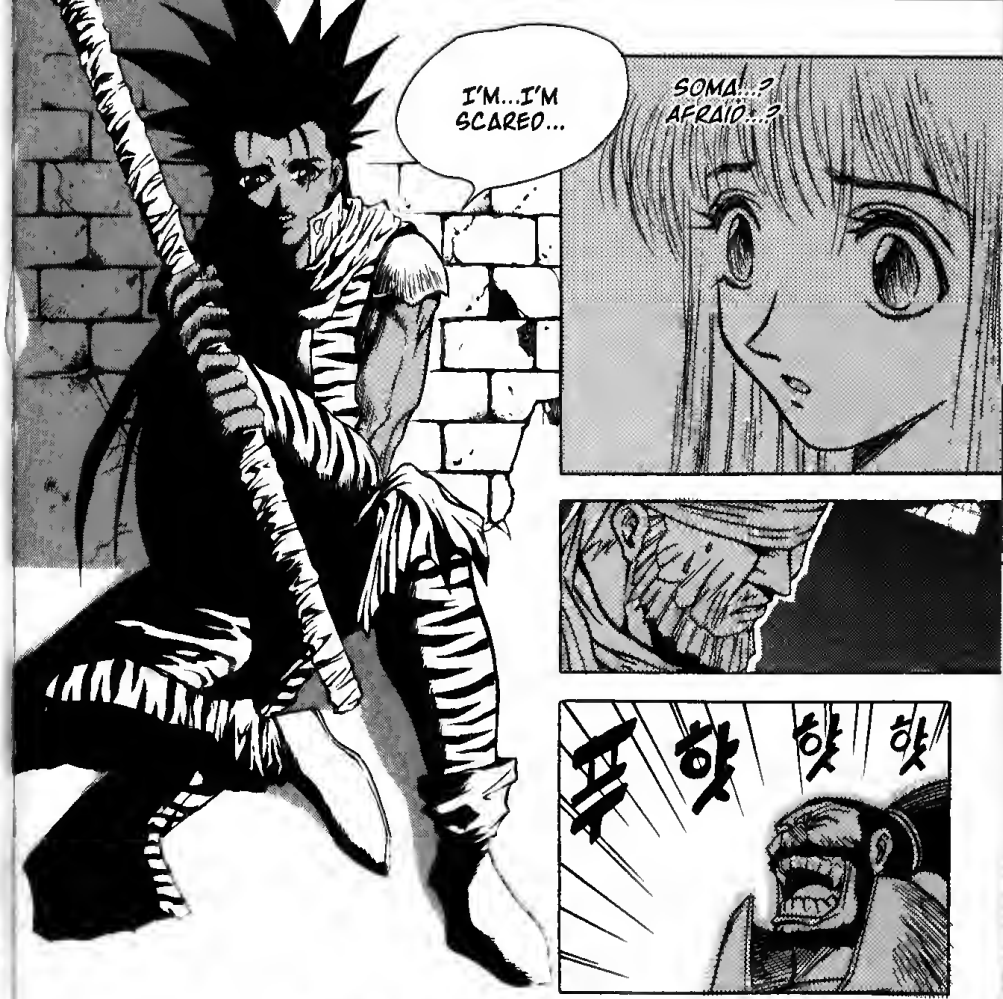

WHAT BE THE MEANING OF THIS, OLD MAN?!


WHETHER HE IS OR IS NOT SOMA--THE FACT REMAINS HE IS OUR GUEST. IT IS FORBIDDEN TO KILL ANOTHER PERSON WITHIN THIS VILLAGE.

DECEIVER! YOU'RE NOT AS POWER-LESS AS YOU LET ON!

HEH HEH...I KNOW NOTHING OF WHICH YOU SPEAK. MY POWERS, ALONG WITH MY BODY, HAVE LONG SINCE DETERIORATED. I'M AFRAID I HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER EITHER.

SOMA...? YOU'RE AWAKE?!


I'M...I'M SCARED...
SOMA...? AFRAID...?

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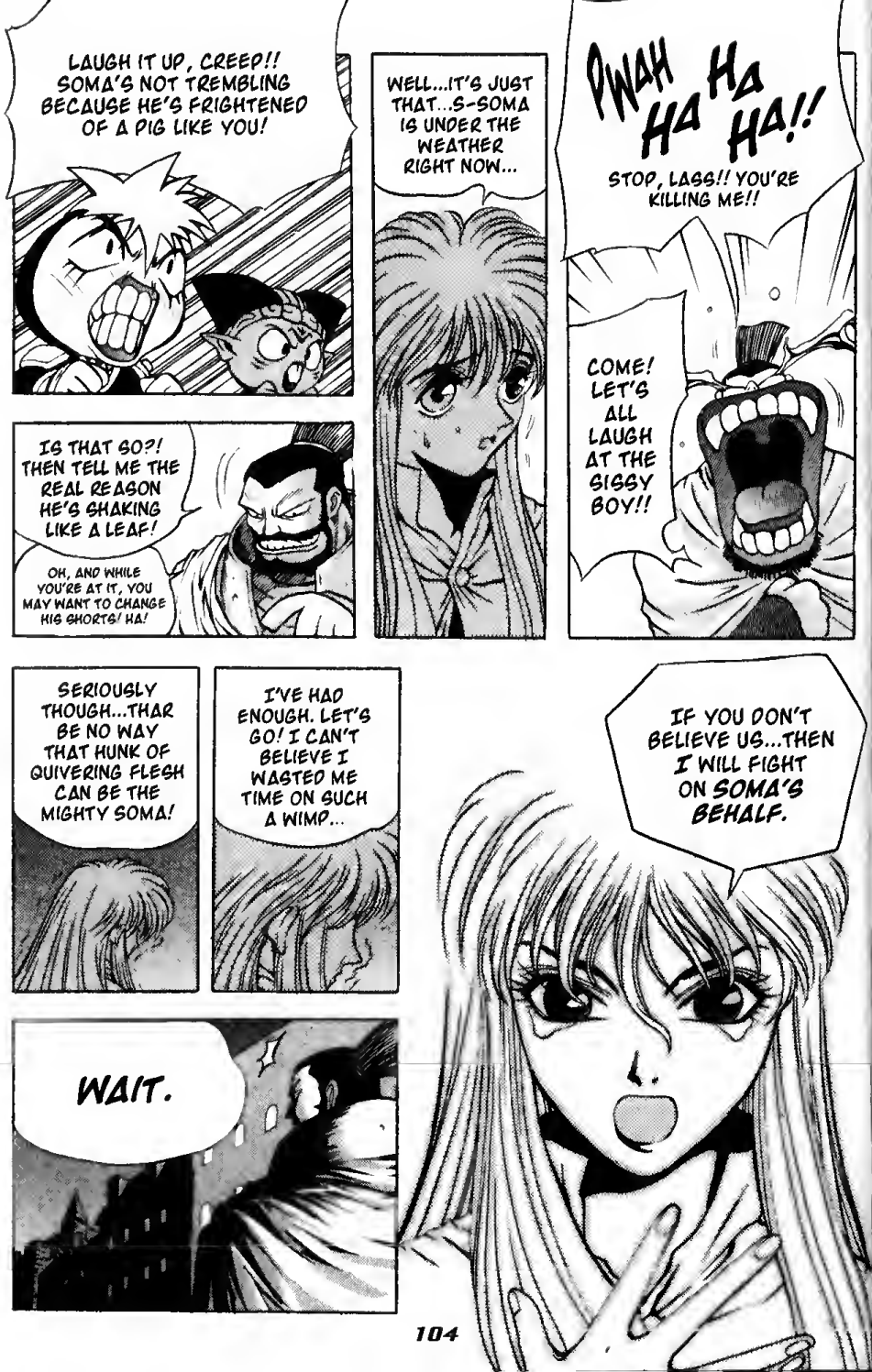
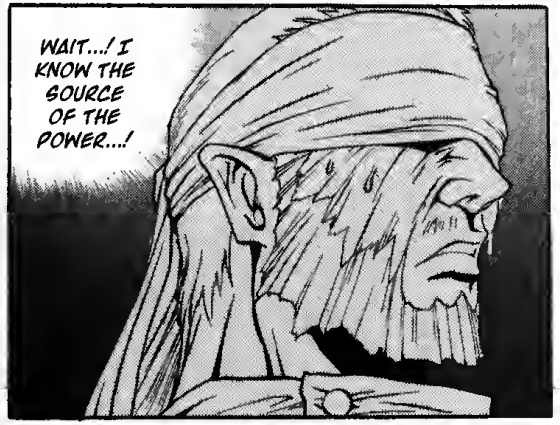
HAR HAR HAR HAR!! THAR BE YOUR HERO-- WHIMPERING LIKE AN OLD WOMAN!!
IF THAT DOESN'T PROVE YOU A LIAR, THEN ME NAME BE DAVY JONES!!


LAUGH IT UP, CREEP!! SOMA'S NOT TREMBLING BECAUSE HE'S FRIGHTENED OF A PIG LIKE YOU!
WELL...IT'S JUST THAT...S-SOMA IS UNDER THE WEATHER RIGHT NOW...
PWAH HA HA HA!!
STOP, LASS!! YOU'RE KILLING ME!!
COME! LET'S ALL LAUGH AT THE SISSY BOY!!
IS THAT SO?! THEN TELL ME THE REAL REASON HE'S SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!
OH, AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU MAY WANT TO CHANGE HIS SHORTS! HA!
SERIOUSLY THOUGH...THAR BE NO WAY THAT HUNK OF QUIVERING FLESH CAN BE THE MIGHTY SOMA!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH. LET'S GO! I CAN'T BELIEVE I WASTED ME TIME ON SUCH A WIMP...
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US...THEN I WILL FIGHT ON SOMA'S BEHALF.
WAIT.

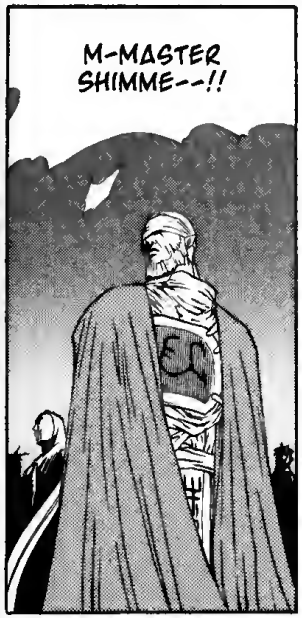
NOW JUST HOLD ON A MINUTE THERE, LASS! CHULOO, KING OF DESTRUCTION, DOESN'T FIGHT GIRLS!
I'VE...NEVER STRUCK A PERSON IN MY LIFE. AND I'VE NEVER WANTED TO...UNTIL NOW.
AHH...LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING...
AT FIRST SHE SEEMED LIKE A WEAK AND FRAIL GIRL...BUT NOW SHE'S EXUDING IMMENSE ENERGY...

THERE'S A POWERFUL ENERGY SURROUNDING HER!
HOWEVER, THE SOURCE OF THAT POWER SEEMS TO BE BEHIND HER...
IT APPEARS TO BE PROTECTING HER...
?
WHAT'S THIS...? IT FEELS LIKE A FORCE IS HOLDING MY BODY DOWN...! I...I CAN'T MOVE...!!


WAIT...! I KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE POWER...!

!

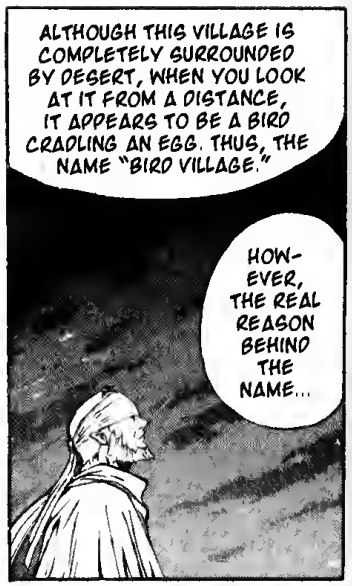
IT'S THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN'S GUARDIAN SPIRIT SWORD!!

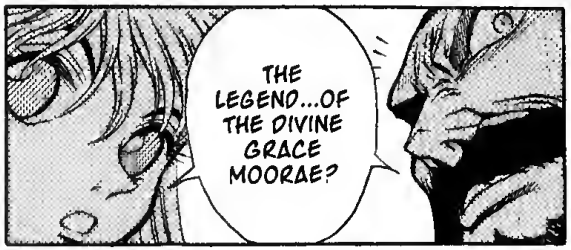

M-MASTER SHIMME--!!

THE LAKE...!!
IT'S TURNING BLACK!!

WHAT?! NO!!

SO...THE LEGEND OF THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE IS UPON US...

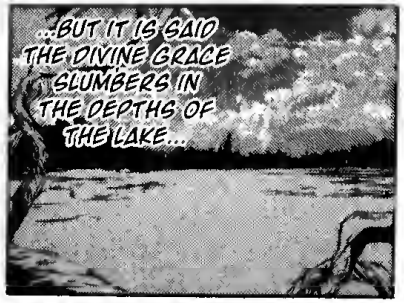

ALTHOUGH THIS VILLAGE IS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY DESERT, WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT FROM A DISTANCE, IT APPEARS TO BE A BIRD CRADLING AN EGG. THUS, THE NAME "BIRD VILLAGE."
HOW-EVER, THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE NAME...

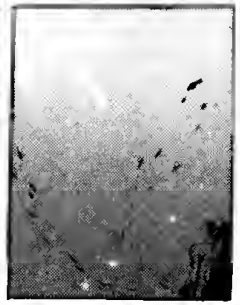

THE LEGEND...OF THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE?

...REFERS TO THE LAKE NEXT TO THE VILLAGE. THERE'S A LEGEND ABOUT IT THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR THOUSANDS OF GENERATIONS...
....THE LEGEND OF THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE.

NO ONE KNOWS WHEN THE LEGEND BEGAN...

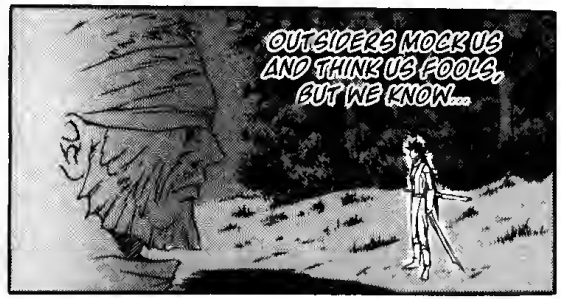
...WITH EYES THAT CAN INCINERATE THE ENTIRE WORLD...


...BUT IT IS SAID THE DIVINE GRACE SLUMBERS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE LAKE...

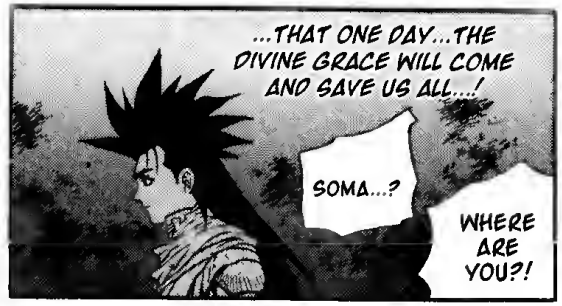


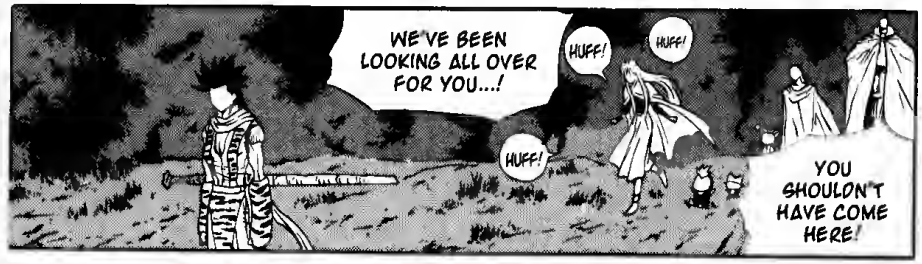
...AND MONSTROUS WINGS THAT CAN BLANKET THE HEAVENS.

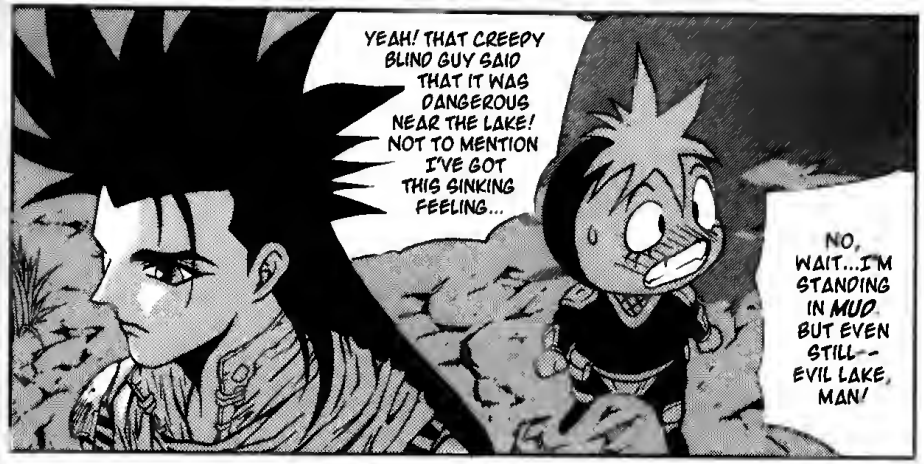
A DIVINE GRACE WHOSE CRY IS SAID TO FILL THE HEARTS OF EVIL MEN WITH FEAR BEYOND IMAGINATION...AND THE HEARTS OF THE GOOD WITH IMMENSE POWER.
ONLY ONCE...WHEN THE WORLD IS OVERRUN WITH EVIL!!..WILL THE DIVINE GRACE RISE FROM THE WATERS, TAKING THE SHAPE OF A MAN WHO WILL SAVE THE WORLD. THAT IS THE LEGEND OF THE DIVINE GRACE!!


OUTSIDERS MOCK US AND THINK US FOOLS, BUT WE KNOW...

THERE YOU ARE!


...THAT ONE DAY...THE DIVINE GRACE WILL COME AND SAVE US ALL...!
SOMA...?
WHERE ARE YOU?!


WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU...!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!


YEAH! THAT CREEPY BLIND GUY SAID THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS NEAR THE LAKE! NOT TO MENTION I'VE GOT THIS SINKING FEELING...
NO, WAIT...I'M STANDING IN *MUD*. BUT EVEN STILL-- EVIL LAKE, MAN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SCARED OF THAT SUPERSTITIOUS MUMBO JUMBO! BUT, WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A WEE BABY AND A GIRL?!
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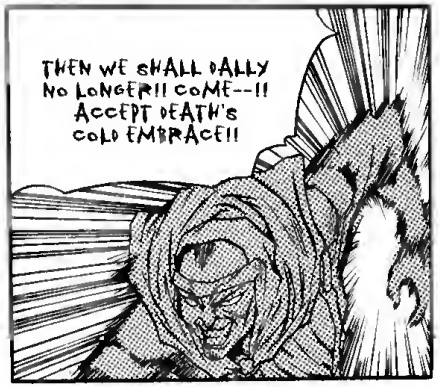
THE LAKE... THE LAKE IS...
...CALLING ME.

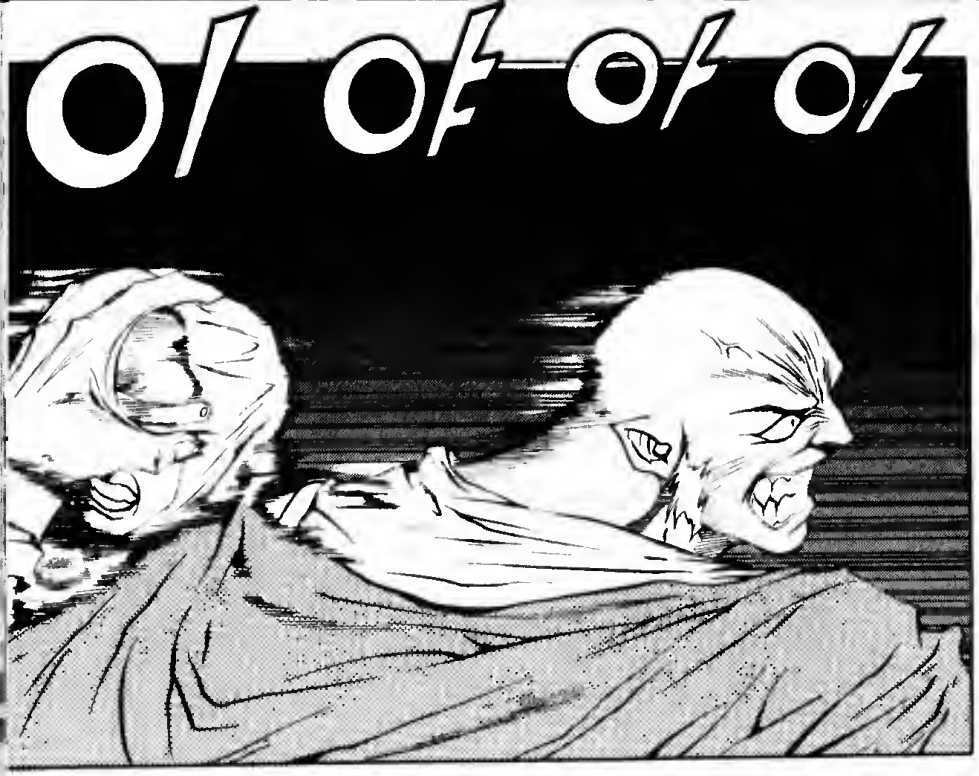
IS IT TRUE? THE DEMON LORDS ARE REALLY COMING HERE?!
YES. I TOLD THEM THAT SOMA AND THE BLADE OF HEAVEN ARE HERE.
IF THE YIN AND YANG DEMON TWINS COME HERE, AS WELL AS THE OTHER DEMON LORDS...
...IT WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE DEFENDERS!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT US, YOU PARASITIC DEMON SPIRITS?!

Parasitic Demon Spirits:

A Demon Spirit that can only survive by absorbing the bodies of live mortals (not only do they just absorb the body of their victims, they also take the victims' form).

Unlike previous Demon Spirits, these spirits can separate their bodies into eighteen pieces, and still be able to control each piece.

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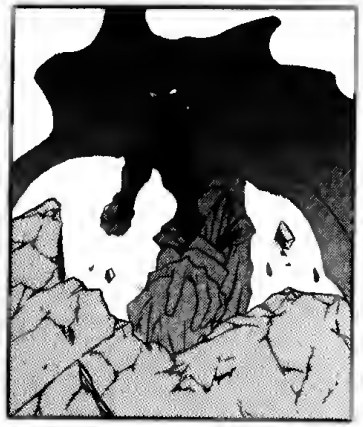


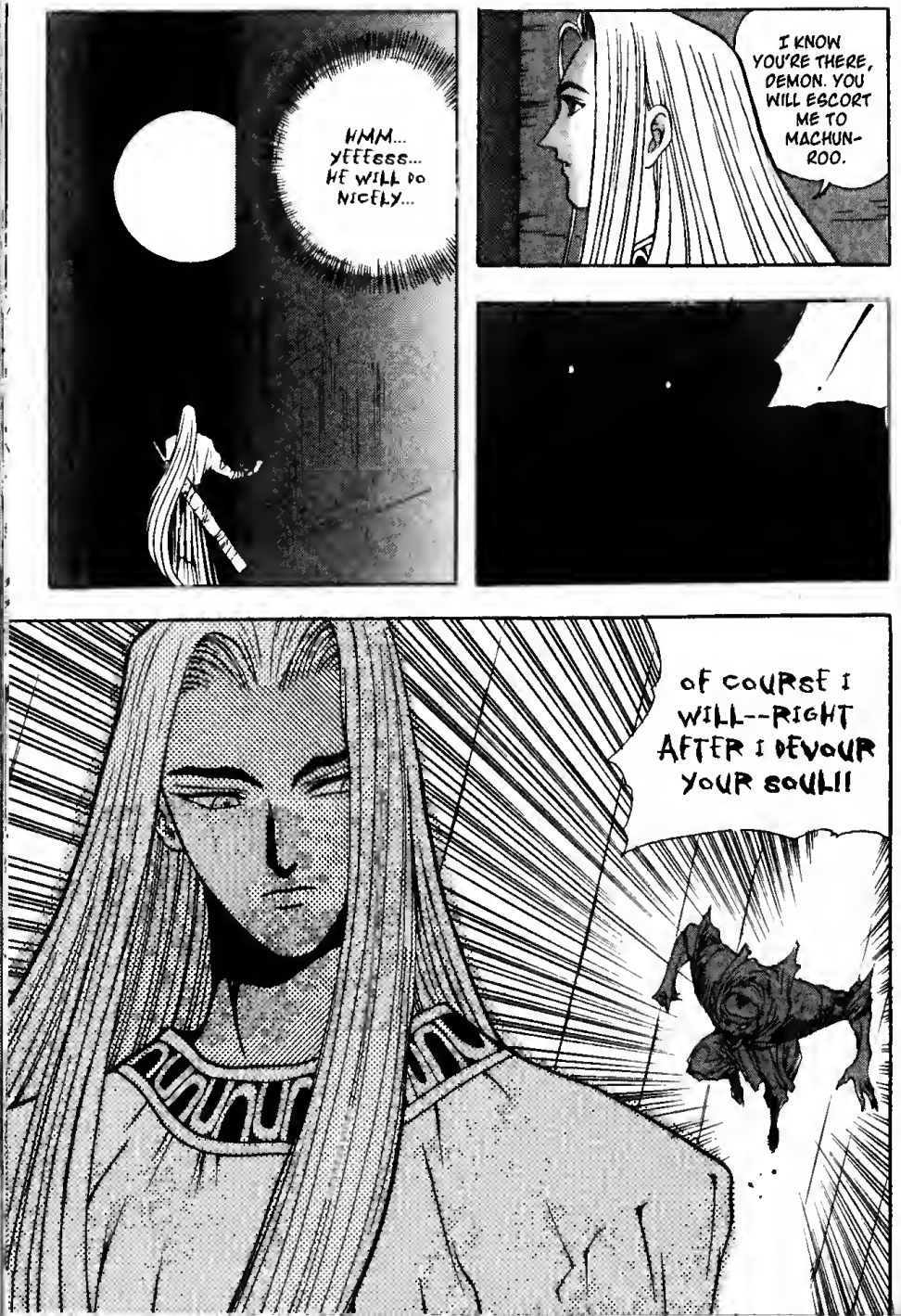
OF

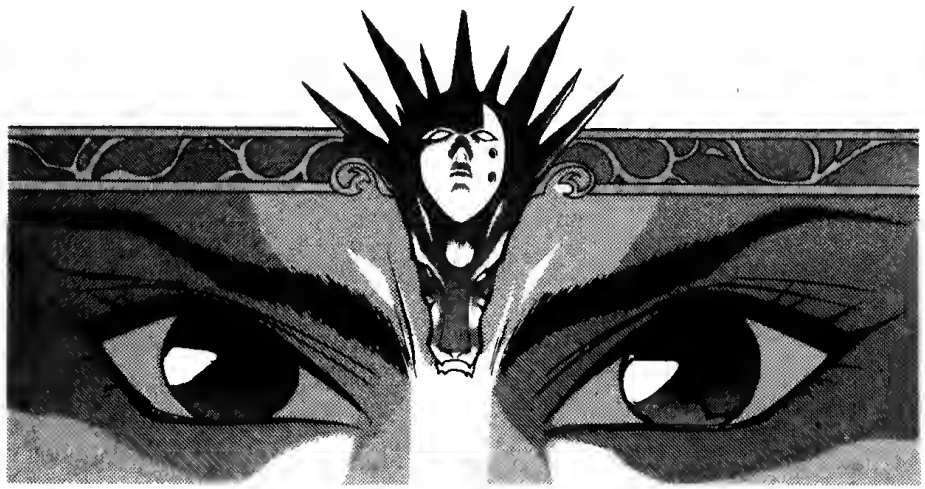
OF OF
OF

HEH HEH
HEH...
PERHAPS THE
DEMON LORDS
NEED NOT SULLY
THEIR HANDS
WITH YOUR
BLOOD!

EE
OF
OF

Wild Beast Clan:
A clan af men who can shape-shift inta animals. They are widely believed ta be extinct. Usually, they have the appearance af narmal humans--but when engaged in cambat, their pawers increase and they change inta their beast farms.





BLADE OF HEAVEN

Grip!
WHAT?! THE SWORD of KWANG-MA?!
HOW DOES MY BLADE TASTE, DEMON?!

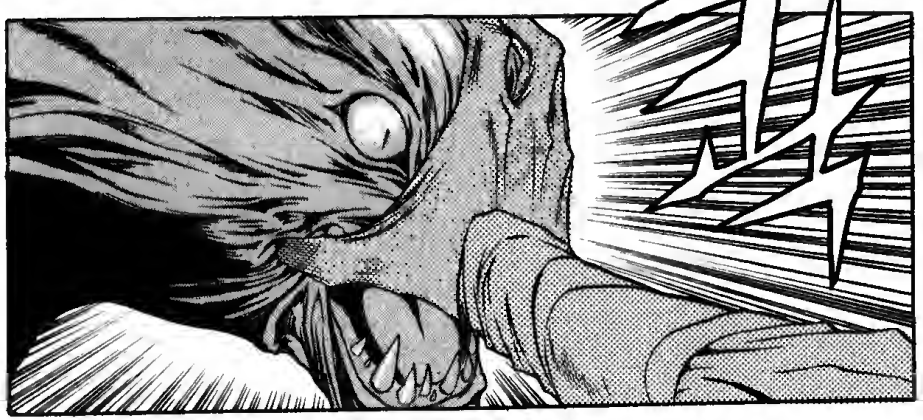
H-How...How did you...gAIN P-PossEssioN... of THAT SWORD...?!
I'LL ASK ONE LAST TIME.

WHERE'S MACHUNROO?
HEH...HEH...

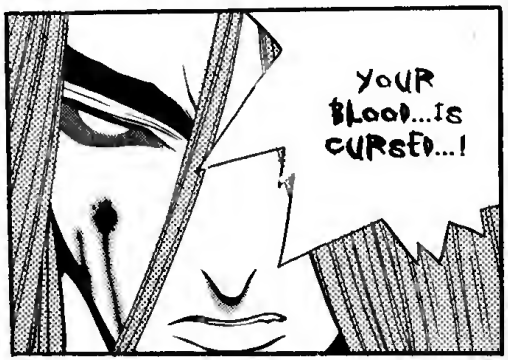
FINE!! IF YOU WON'T WILLINGLY TELL ME--
--I'LL BEAT THE ANSWER FROM YOUR FOUL LIPS!!
No, you IDIOTS!! Look out for his--

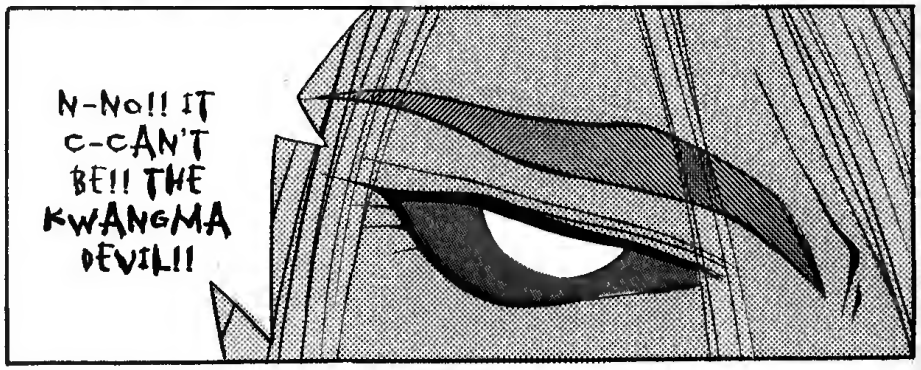
I TOLD YOU I WOULD SWALLOW YOUR SO--

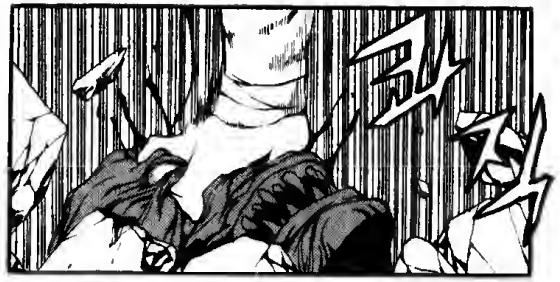
I'LL KILL YOU!!



HURK...!
Y-YOU'RE...
YOU'RE...NOT...
HUMAN!


YOUR
BLOOD...IS
CURSED...!

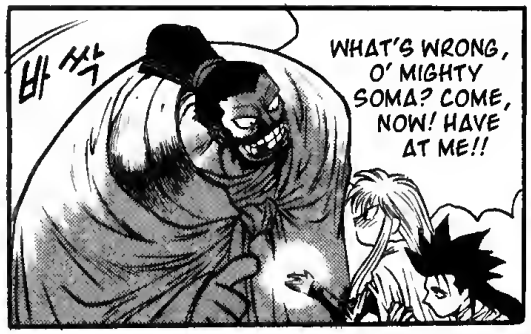

N-NO!! IT
C-CAN'T
BE!! THE
KWANGMA
DEVIL!!

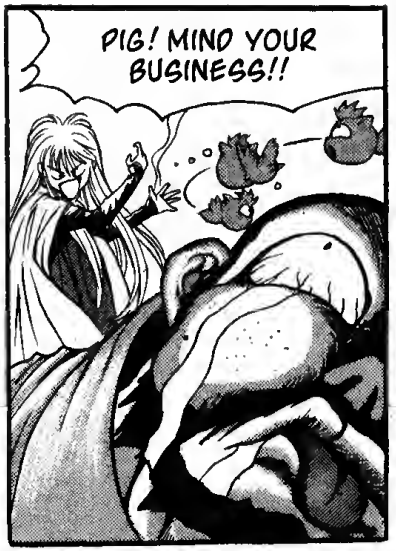


NO...PLEASE
NO...

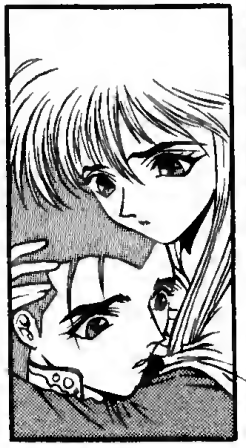
PFFT! BIG DEAL! BESIDES BEING BLACK AS COAL, IT BE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER LAKE!
THAT BLIND COOT AND HIS BALD CRONIES PROBABLY CONJURED UP THAT "DIVINE GRACE" NONSENSE!
WAIT! SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT, HERE!
THE WATER TASTES JUST FINE...SO HOW COME THERE'RE NO PLANTS NEAR IT?
COME NOW, LASS! WE BE WASTIN' OUR TIME, HERE! LET'S GO DEMON HUNTING!!
GOTTA RESEARCH!
GOTTA RESEARCH!
HUSH UP, NOW! I GOT EXPERIMENTIN' TO DO!
GOTTA CHECK THIS!
AND THIS!
OH! AND THIS!
ARRRR! I YEARN TO HIT SOMETHING...!

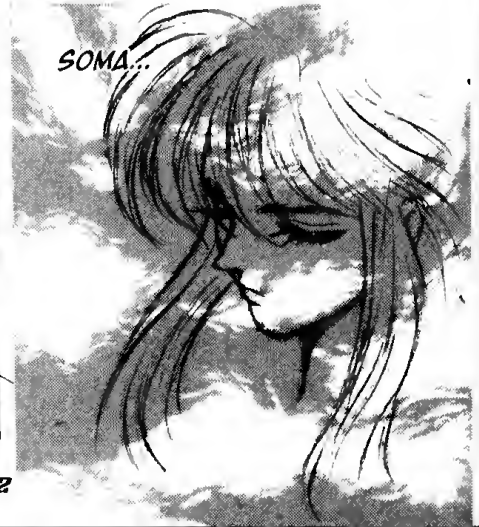
EH...?
AND WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO ATTACK... AT THAT POINT... UM...DARN IT! GENERAL SUMMER TAUGHT ME, BUT NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER!
MAYBE FILING MY NAILS WHILE SHE EXPLAINED WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
OKAY... WATCH ME CAREFULLY...
FIRST, YOU HAVE TO CLEAR YOUR MIND...CENTER THE ENERGY INSIDE YOU LIKE THIS...
AVAST THERE, LASSIE! YOU CAN SHARPEN THOSE SKILLS WITH ME--IN MORTAL COMBAT!!

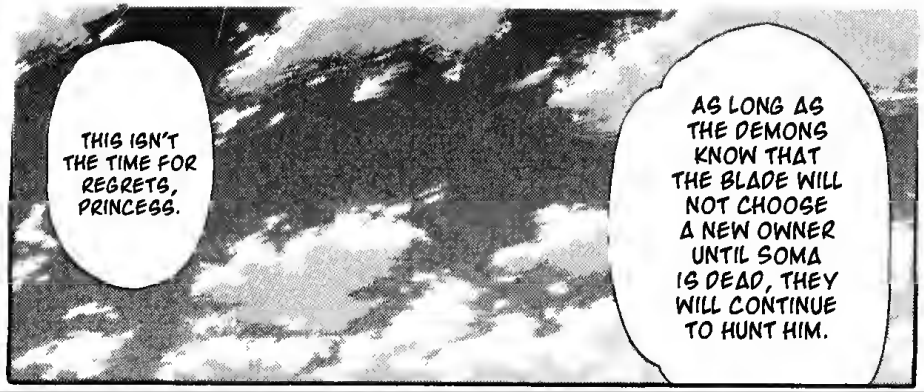

WHAT'S WRONG, O' MIGHTY SOMA? COME, NOW! HAVE AT ME!!


PIG! MIND YOUR BUSINESS!!

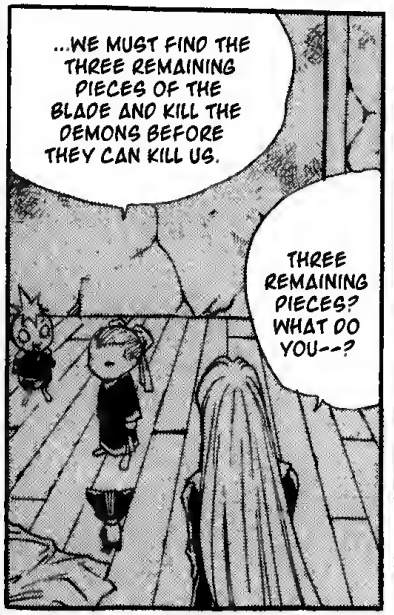
HUH?



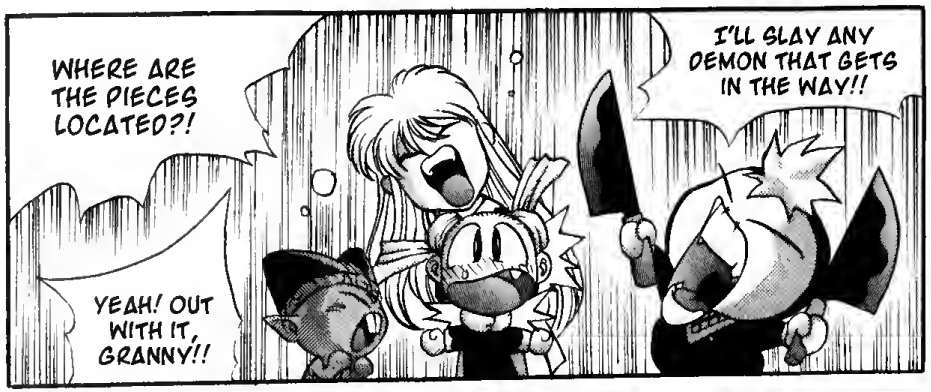

SOMA...

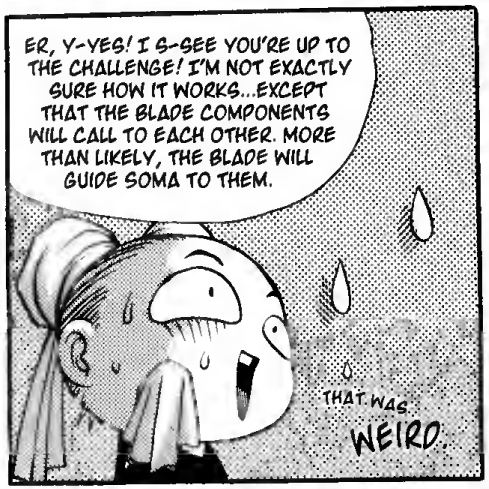

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR REGRETS, PRINCESS.
AS LONG AS THE DEMONS KNOW THAT THE BLADE WILL NOT CHOOSE A NEW OWNER UNTIL SOMA IS DEAD, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HUNT HIM.

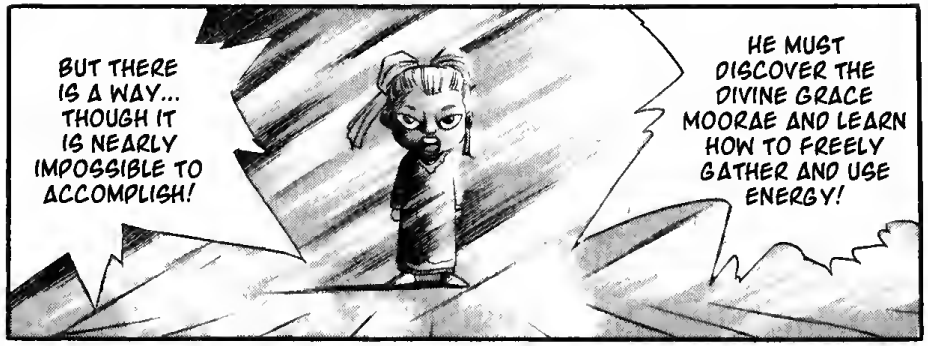
SO THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...


...WE MUST FIND THE THREE REMAINING PIECES OF THE BLADE AND KILL THE DEMONS BEFORE THEY CAN KILL US.
THREE REMAINING PIECES? WHAT DO YOU--?

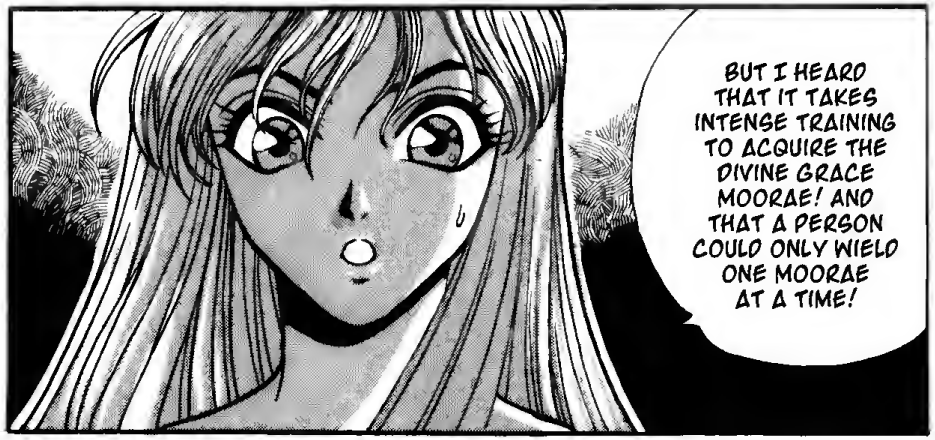
THE BLADE OF HEAVEN IS AN ENERGY SWORD THAT HAS FOUR COMPONENTS-- POWER, LAW, HEART...
...AND THE ONE I GAVE TO SOMA, THE LION. ONLY AFTER ALL FOUR COMPONENTS HAVE BEEN COMBINED WILL IT REALIZE ITS FULL POWER AND BECOME THE TRUE BLADE OF HEAVEN!

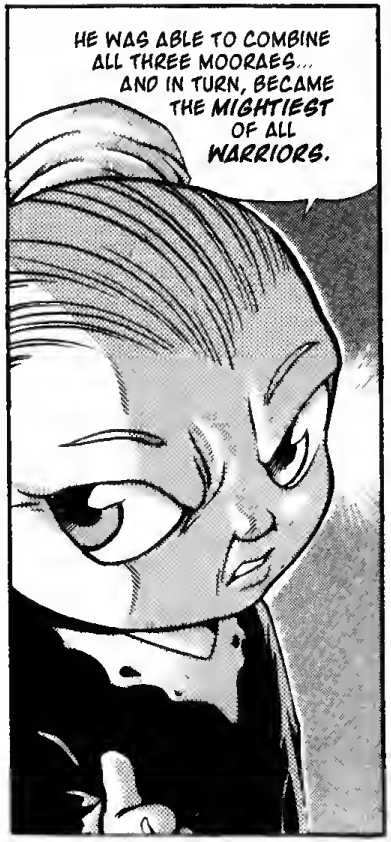






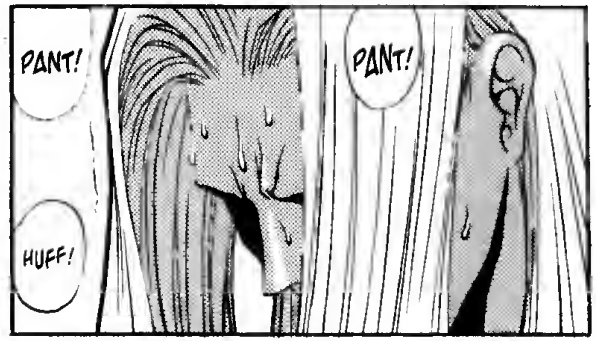
The Three Unique Mooraes:
The Three Unique Maaraes are seporated thusly:
1) One enables the hast ta harness vicious internol energy ond use it as a form af attock. This Mooroe is o speciolty of demons.
2) A second Moarae used by martals grants the user the obility to fight ferociously by using all six senses.
3) Finolly, there's the Divine Groce Moarae (the Maarae that Soma needs), which gronts the user unlimited "inner energy."

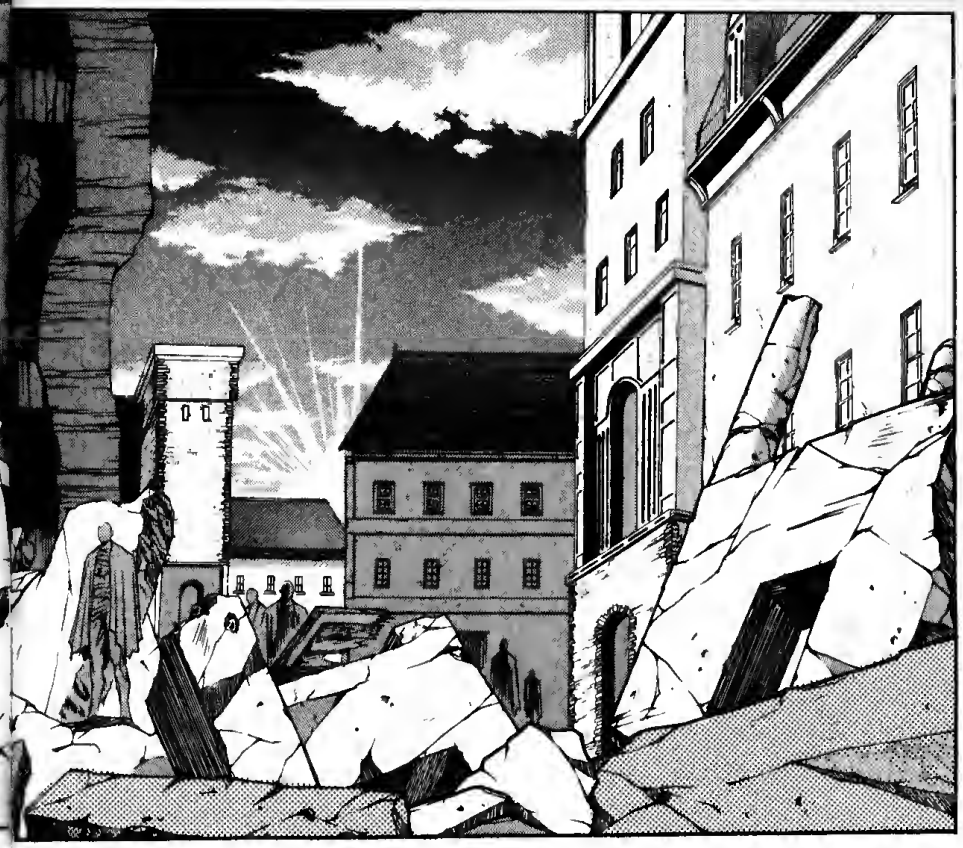


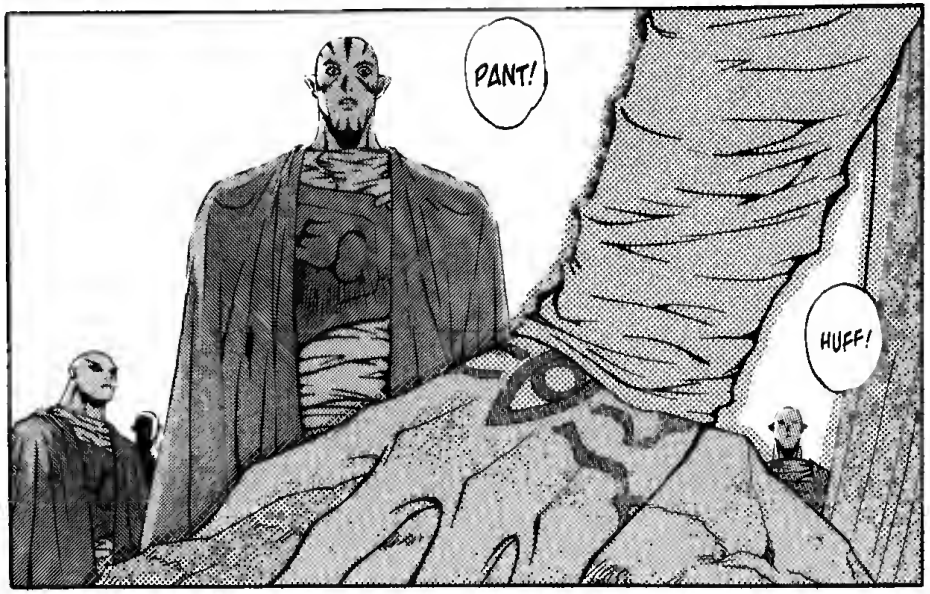


BLADE OF HEAVEN

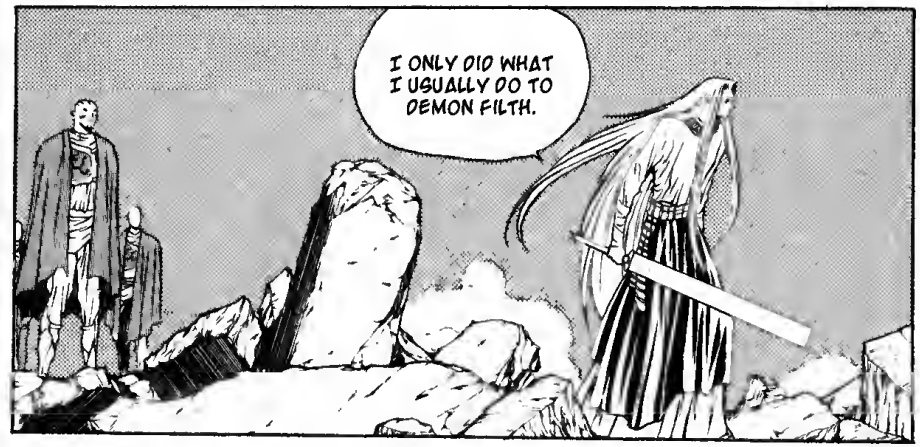
HUFF
HUFF


PANT!
PANT!
HUFF!




PANT!
HUFF!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE... BUT WE THANK YOU FOR HELPING US.
ARE YOU...ARE YOU HURT...?
THERE IS NO NEED TO THANK ME.

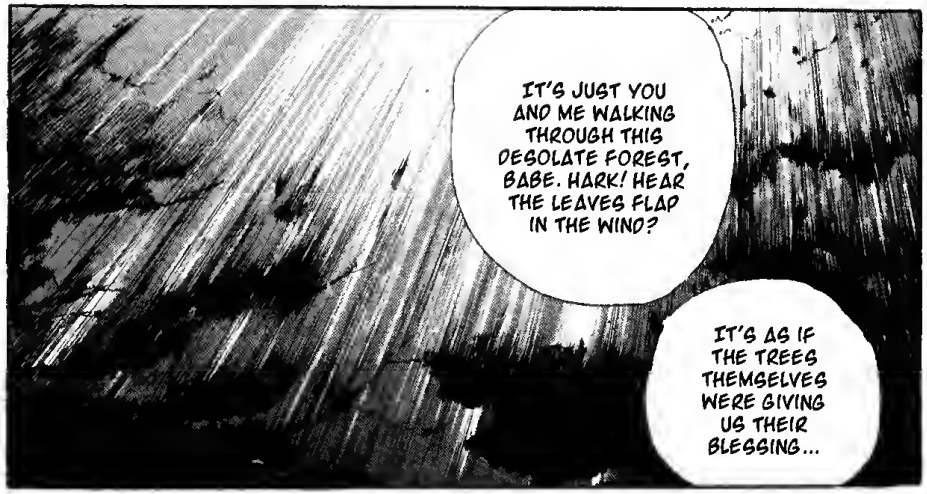

I ONLY DID WHAT I USUALLY DO TO DEMON FILTH.

YOUR MURDEROUS ENERGY IS TOO STRONG.

UNLESS YOU CAN LEARN TO CONTAIN YOUR POWER...YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO ESCAPE YOUR RAGE.

I SEE YOU... STANDING UNDER A DARK SKY...
THE SKY...IT'S RAINING BLOOD. THIS, I FEAR, IS YOUR FATE.
MASTER SHIMME...

SO SAD... SO VERY TRAGIC...
WHAT GOOD IS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE...
...WHEN I'M POWERLESS TO CHANGE DESTINY?!


IT'S JUST YOU AND ME WALKING THROUGH THIS DESOLATE FOREST, BABE. HARK! HEAR THE LEAVES FLAP IN THE WIND?
IT'S AS IF THE TREES THEMSELVES WERE GIVING US THEIR BLESSING...

THIS WAS ALL PART OF YOUR PLAN TO GET ME ALONE, WASN'T IT? YOU SLY MINX, YOU...

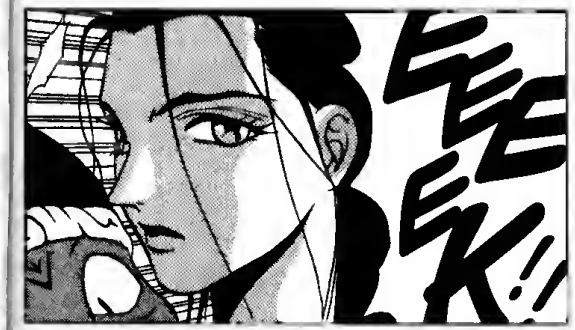
STOP BABBLING AND GATHER SOME FIRE-WOOD, WHY DON'T 'CHA?!
TOK!

HA...! RIGHT IN THE KISSER!

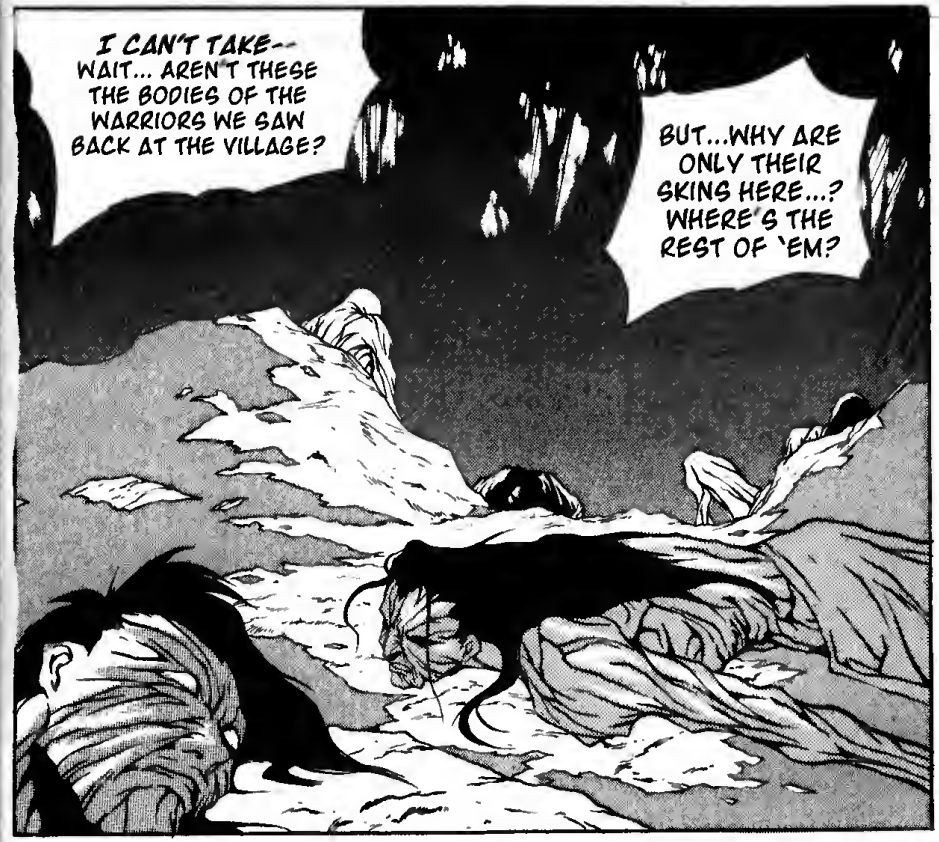
C'MERE, YOU! I'LL RAM THIS STICK DOWN YOUR--
TOK!
TOK!

YOU DARE MOCK ME, YA LITTLE TWERP?!

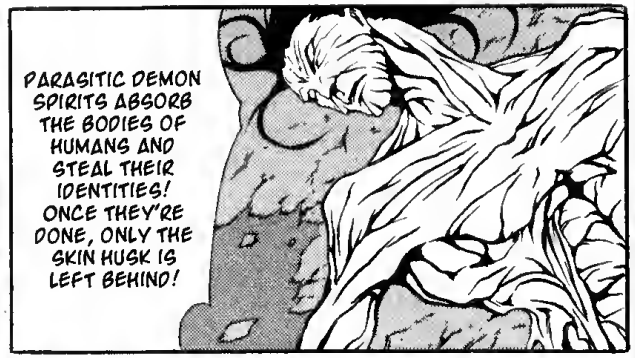
SQUISH
EH?


EEEEK!!

B-BODIES! DEAD, ROTTING, MAGGOT INFESTED BODIES!!


I CAN'T TAKE-- WAIT... AREN'T THESE THE BODIES OF THE WARRIORS WE SAW BACK AT THE VILLAGE?
BUT...WHY ARE ONLY THEIR SKINS HERE...? WHERE'S THE REST OF 'EM?

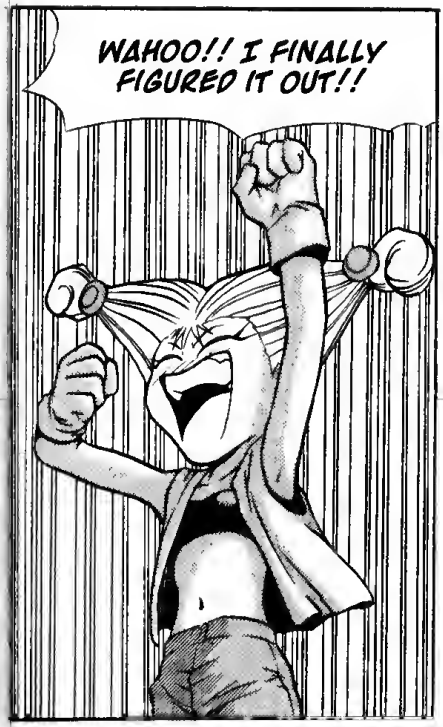
NO...! THIS IS THE WORK OF PARASITIC DEMON SPIRITS!

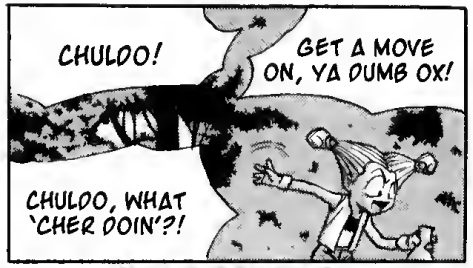

PARASITIC DEMON SPIRITS ABSORB THE BODIES OF HUMANS AND STEAL THEIR IDENTITIES! ONCE THEY'RE DONE, ONLY THE SKIN HUSK IS LEFT BEHIND!

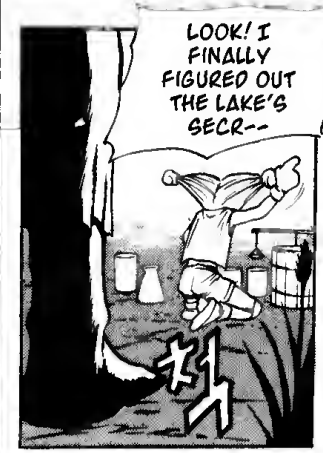
SKIN HUSKS...?!

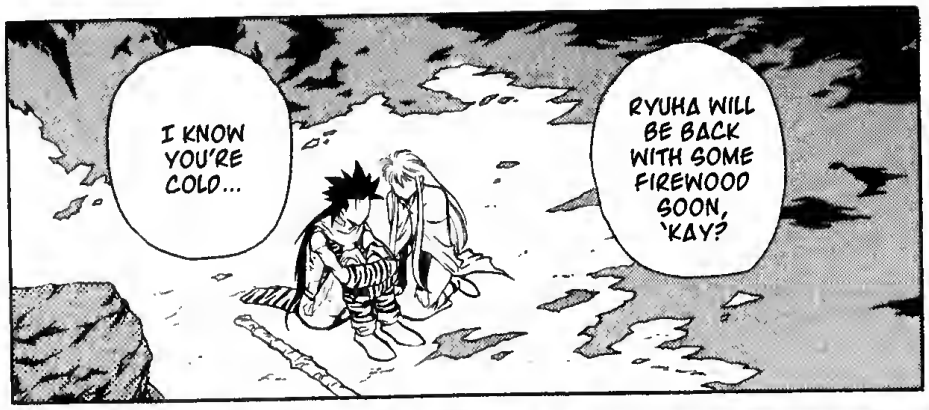
WE MUST HURRY BACK! SOMA'S IN DANGER!

RYUHA...?! WAIT FOR ME, DUMPLING!


WAHOO!! I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT!!

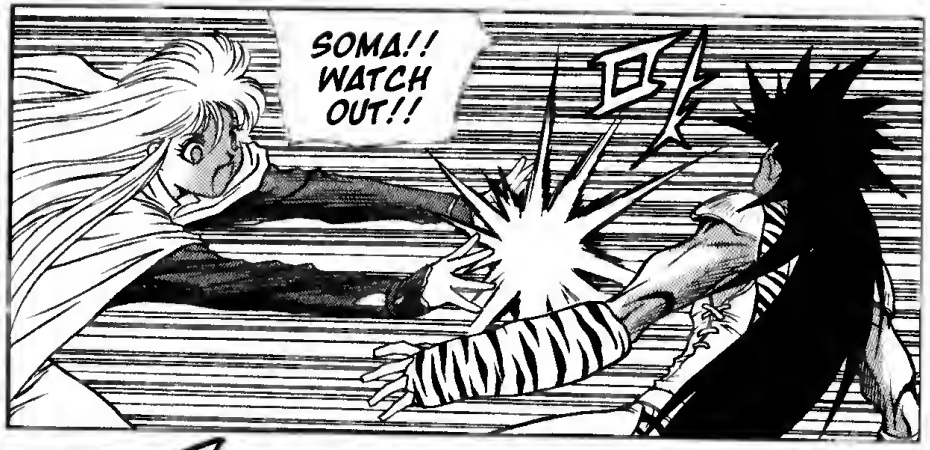

CHULDO!
GET A MOVE ON, YA DUMB OX!
CHULDO, WHAT 'CHER DOIN'?!


LOOK! I FINALLY FIGURED OUT THE LAKE'S SECR--

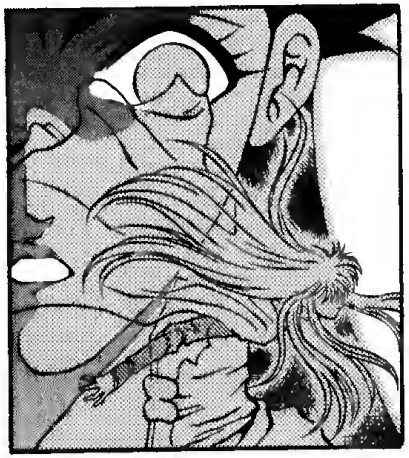

I KNOW YOU'RE COLD...
RYUHA WILL BE BACK WITH SOME FIREWOOD SOON, 'KAY?

HOO
HOO

OH...! WHO ARE...?

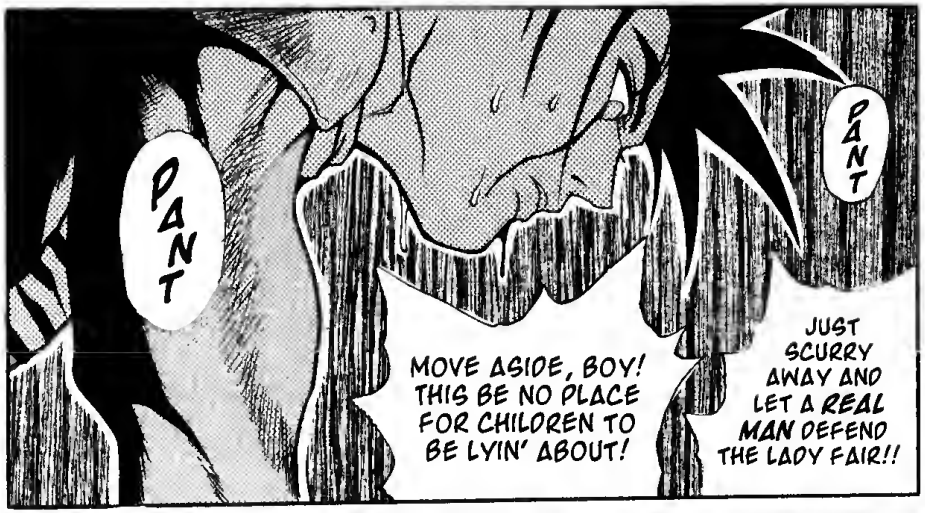

SOMA!! WATCH OUT!!

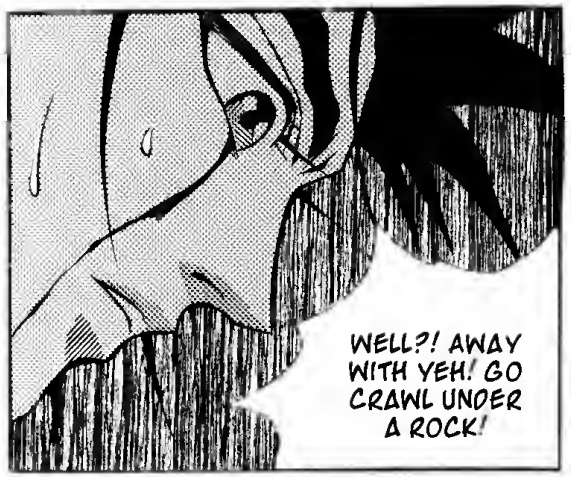
HOO



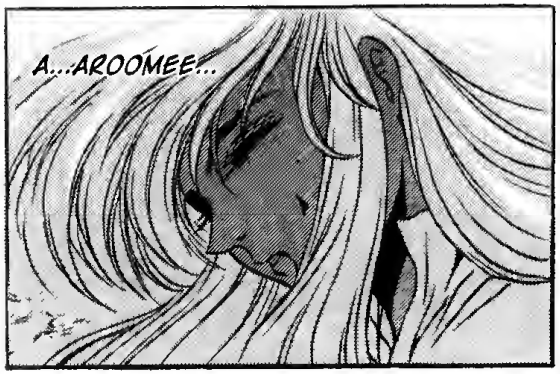
FINALLY!! I WAS SO DESPERATE FOR ACTION, I WAS ABOUT TO CHALLENGE A WOODPECKER!!

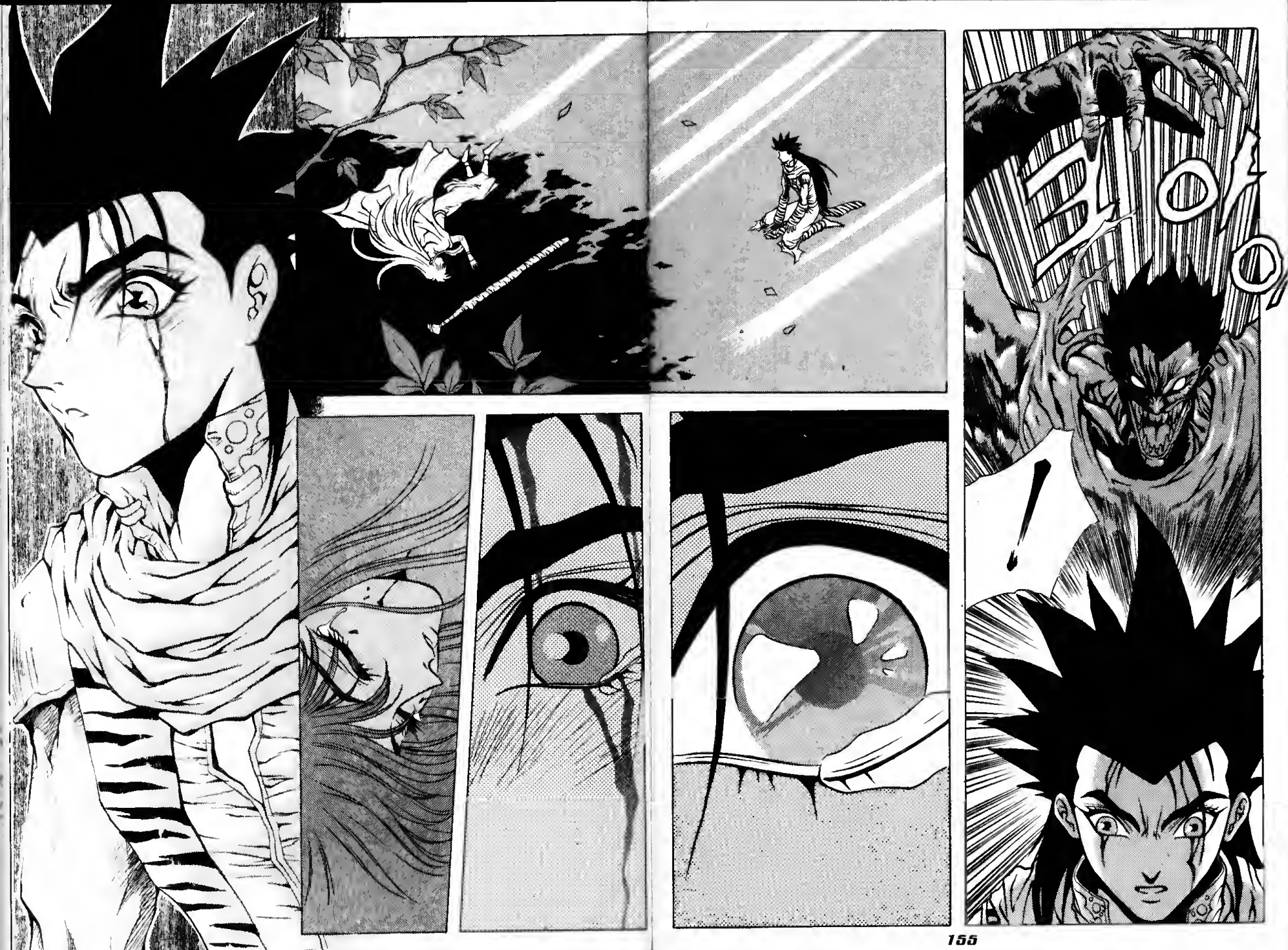
LEAVE THE PUP ALONE, YOU SCURVY DOGS! 'TIS ME THAT YOU WANT!!


PANT
PANT
MOVE ASIDE, BOY! THIS BE NO PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO BE LYIN' ABOUT!
JUST SCURRY AWAY AND LET A REAL MAN DEFEND THE LADY FAIR!!


WELL?! AWAY WITH YEH! GO CRAWL UNDER A ROCK!

...!

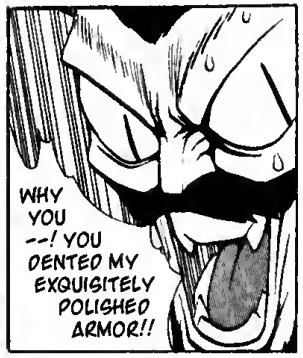

A...AROOMEE...

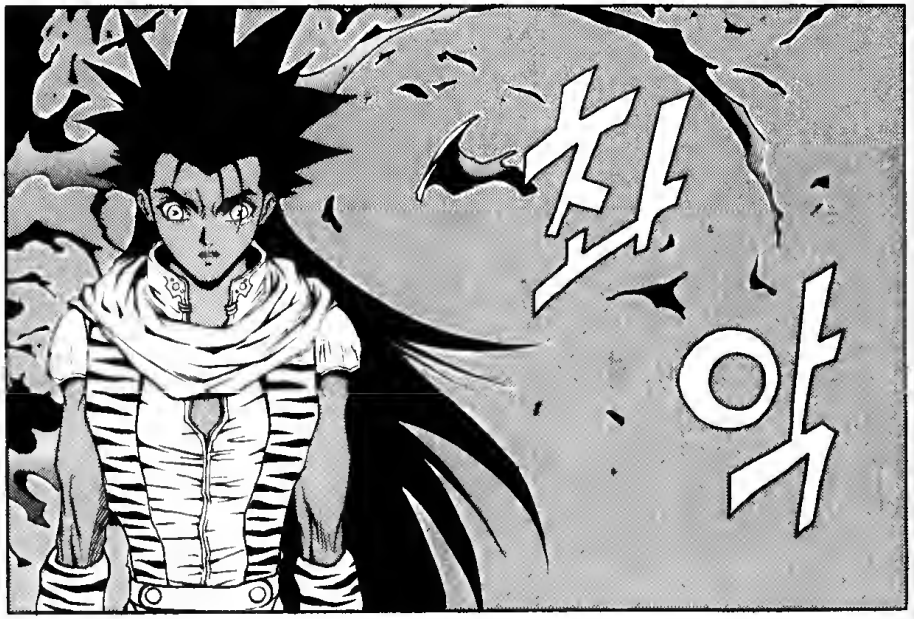

EH?

NOW IT'S PERSONAL!!

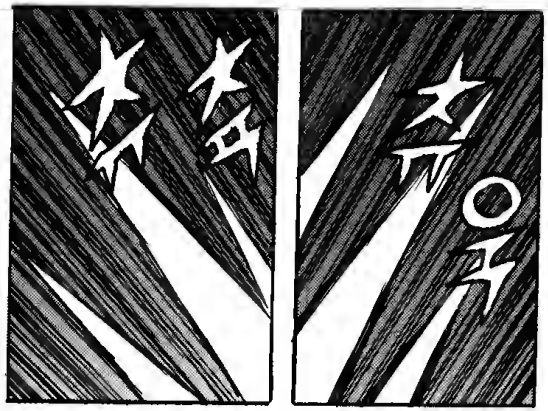
BAH!! TROUBLE-SOME WHELP!! THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN A COWARD IS A DUMB COWARD!!

HEY!

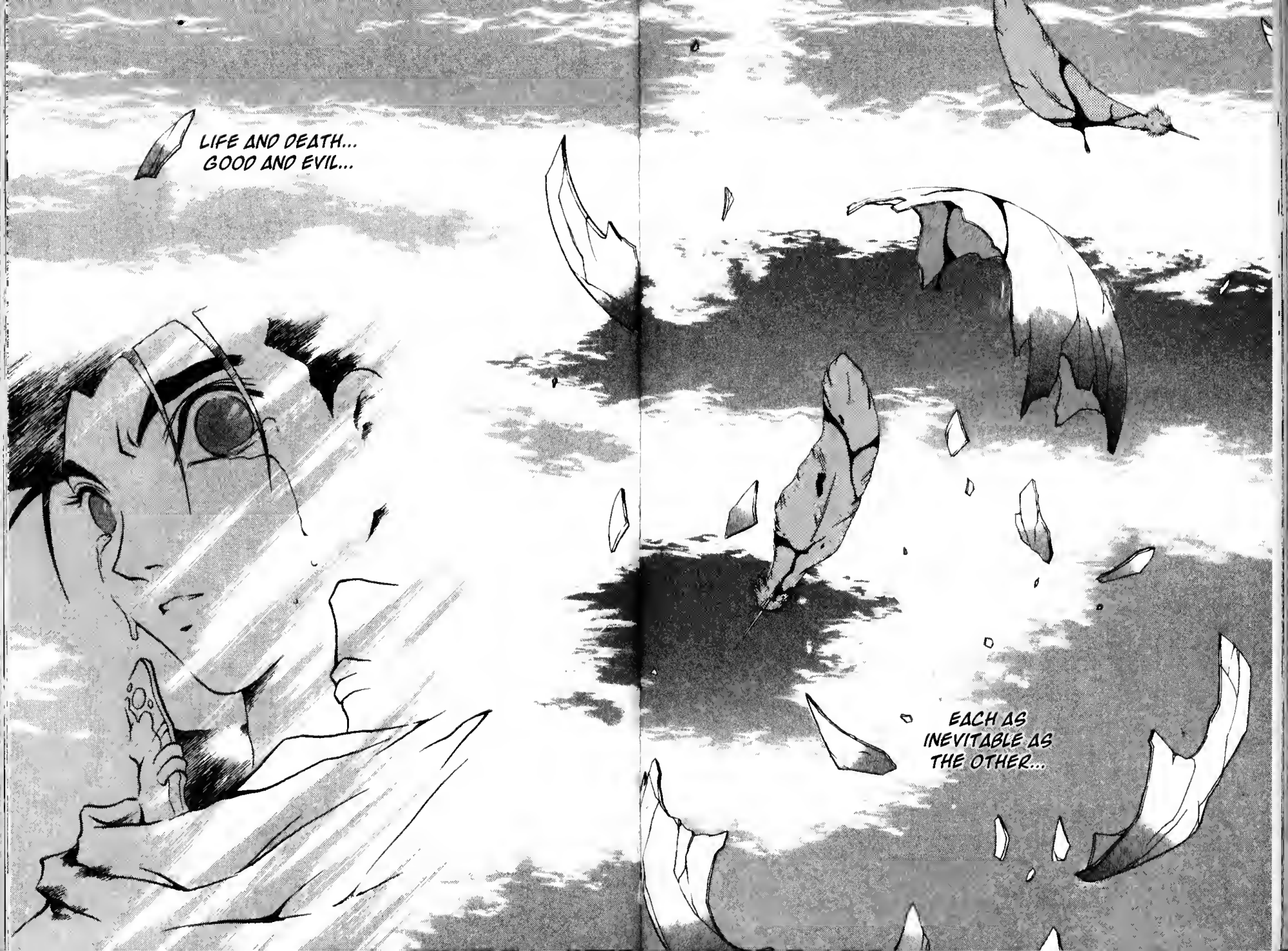

WHY YOU --! YOU DENTED MY EXQUISITELY POLISHED ARMOR!!

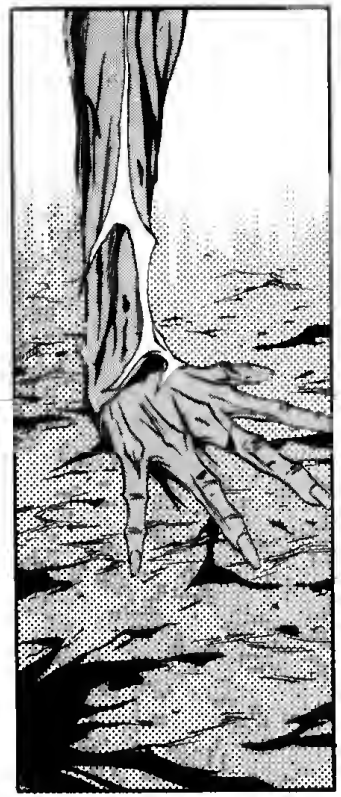

치아앙

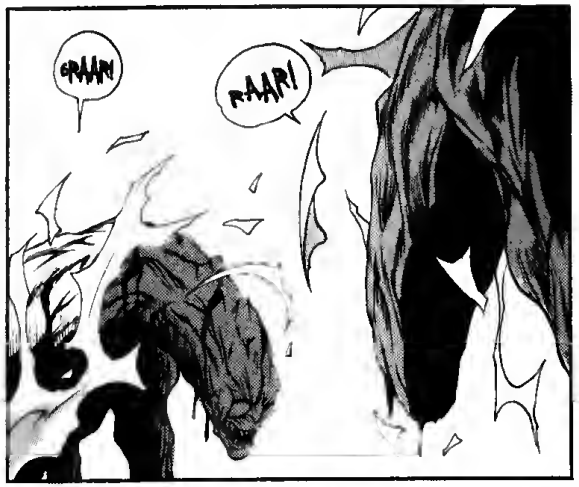
LET'S SEE YOU SINK YOUR FANGS INTO THIS! INVINCIBLE STEEL ARMOR!!

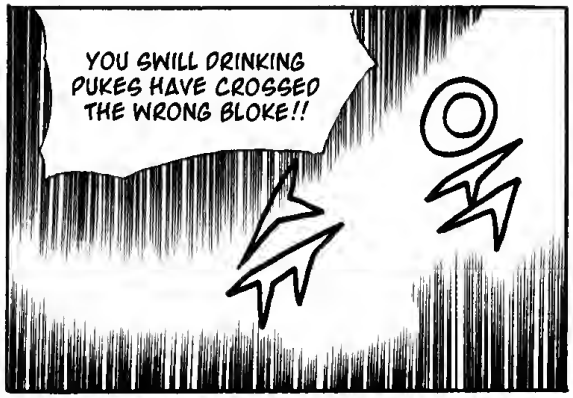

치아

NOW WE BE HAVING SOME FUN, BUCKO!!


LIFE AND DEATH...
GOOD AND EVIL...
EACH AS
INEVITABLE AS
THE OTHER...



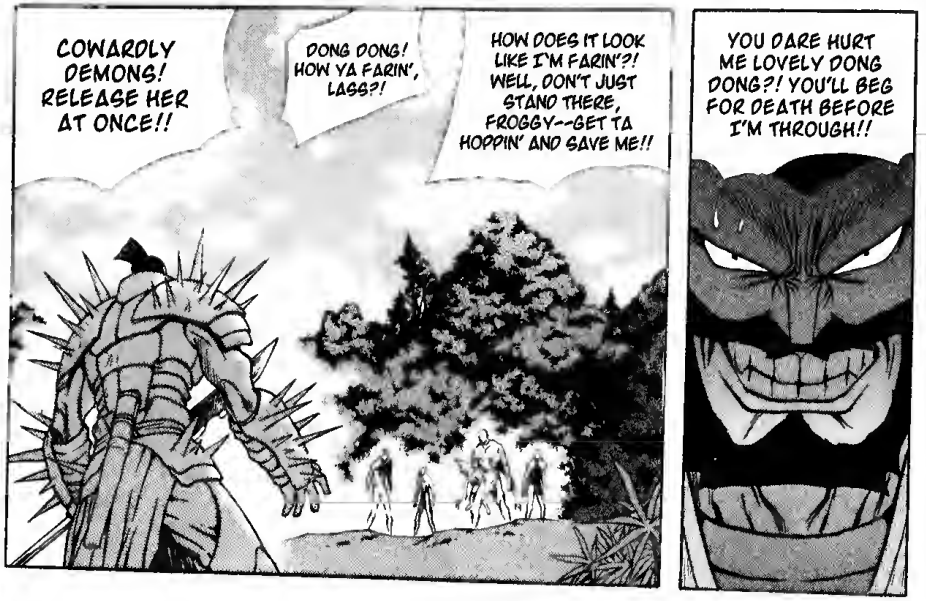


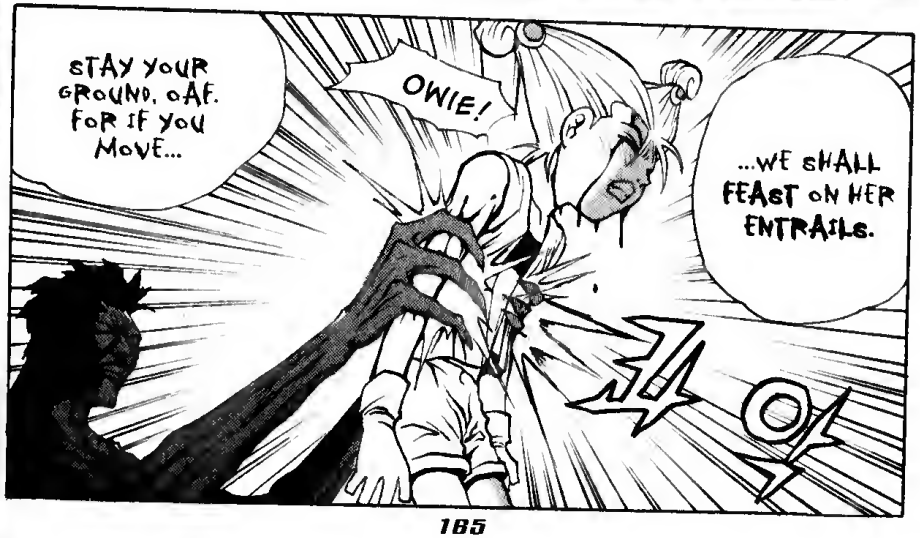


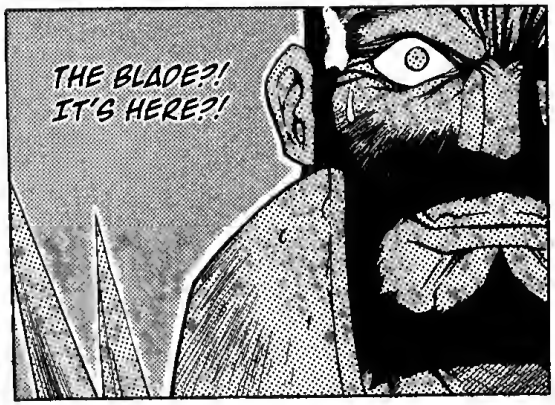
World's Greatest Ten Thausand Fatham Energy: Well, it actually isn't warld famaus. It's merely the averly dramatic name af this numbskull's spear technique. (Basically, it's just his attempt ta yet again taat his awn harn.)

BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE...THE FIGHT GOES ON...

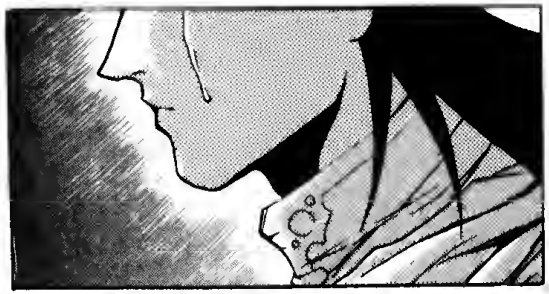
HUH?! WHAT BE THIS TREACHERY ?!


COWARDLY DEMONS! RELEASE HER AT ONCE!!
DONG DONG! HOW YA FARIN', LASS?!
HOW DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M FARIN'?! WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, FROGGY--GET TA HOPPIN' AND SAVE ME!!
YOU DARE HURT ME LOVELY DONG DONG?! YOU'LL BEG FOR DEATH BEFORE I'M THROUGH!!


STAY YOUR GROUND, OAF. FOR IF YOU MOVE...
OWIE!
...WE SHALL FEAST ON HER ENTRAILS.


THE BLADE?!
IT'S HERE?!

WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOU TWO. THE BLADE OF HEAVEN IS WHAT WE SEEK.
UH

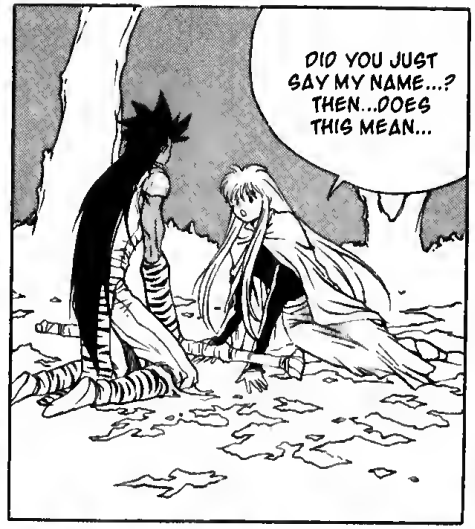


WAKE... WAKE UP...

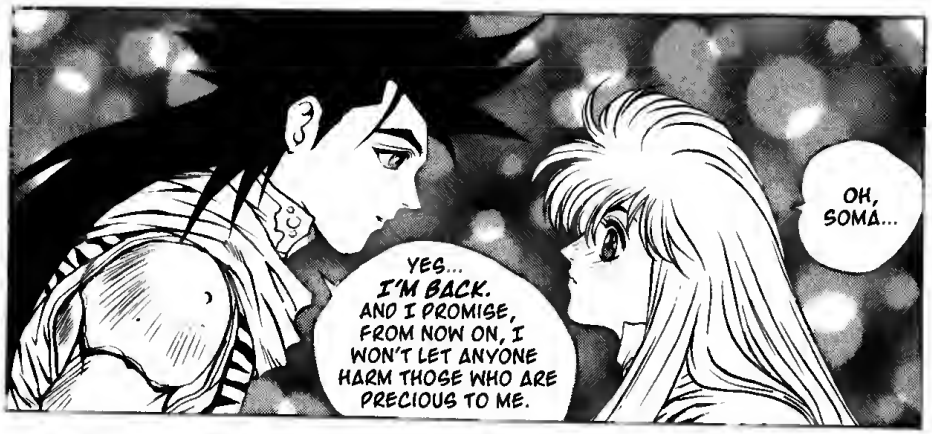
OPEN...

...OPEN YOUR EYES... AROOMEE...

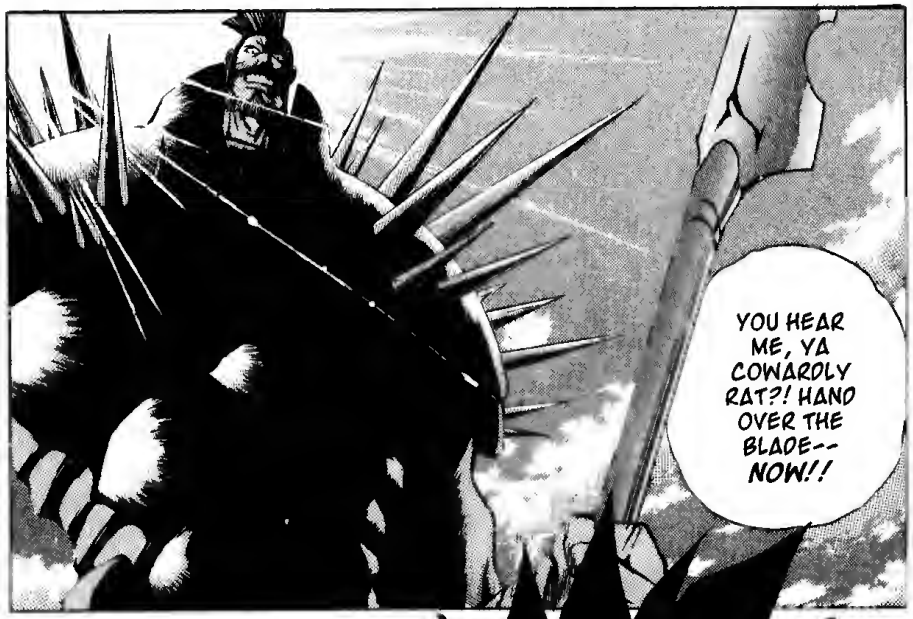
S...SOMA...?

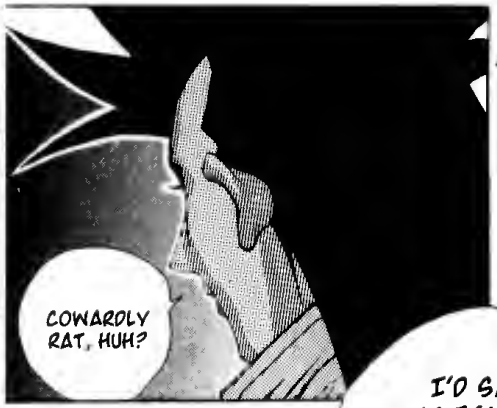

DID YOU JUST SAY MY NAME...? THEN...DOES THIS MEAN...

HUH...? HOW...

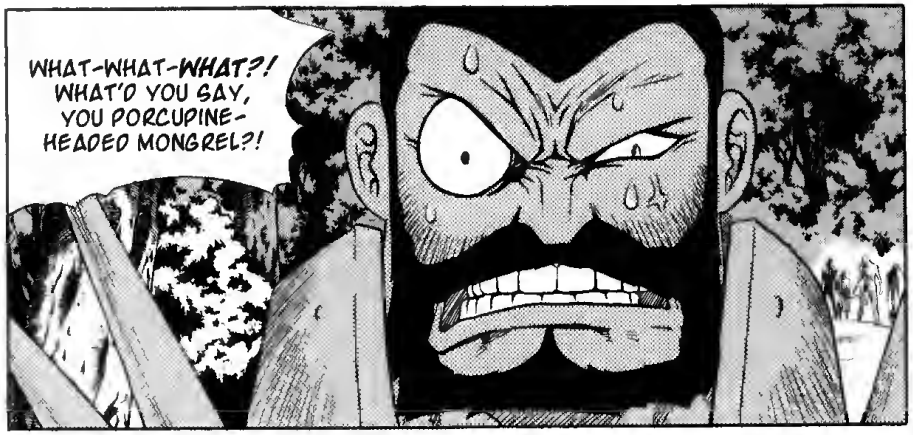

OH, SOMA...
YES... I'M BACK. AND I PROMISE, FROM NOW ON, I WON'T LET ANYONE HARM THOSE WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO ME.

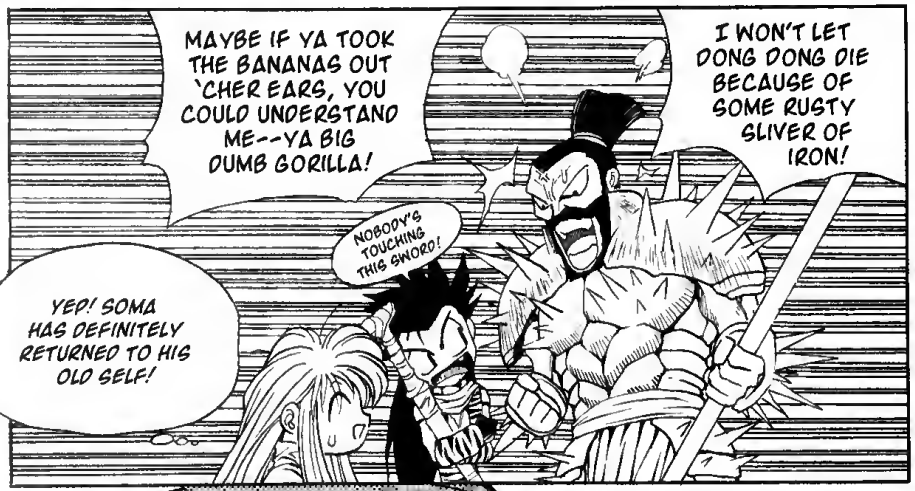
HERE NOW, LADDIE... HAND OVER THAT SWORD.

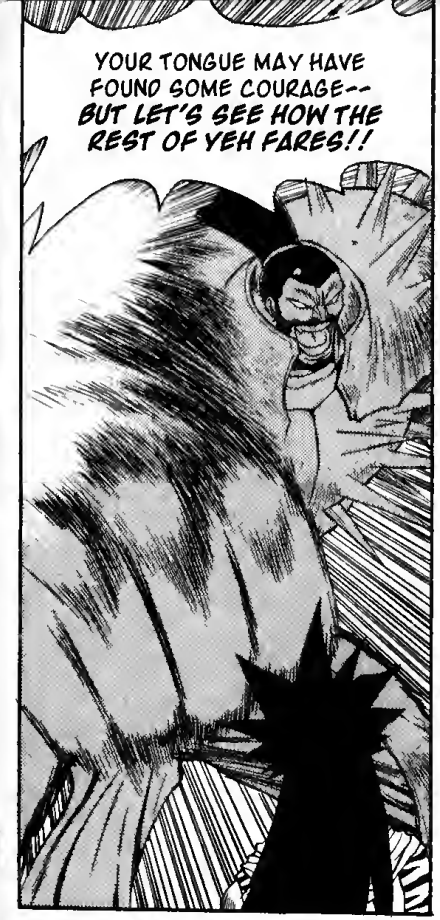




BLADE OF HEAVEN

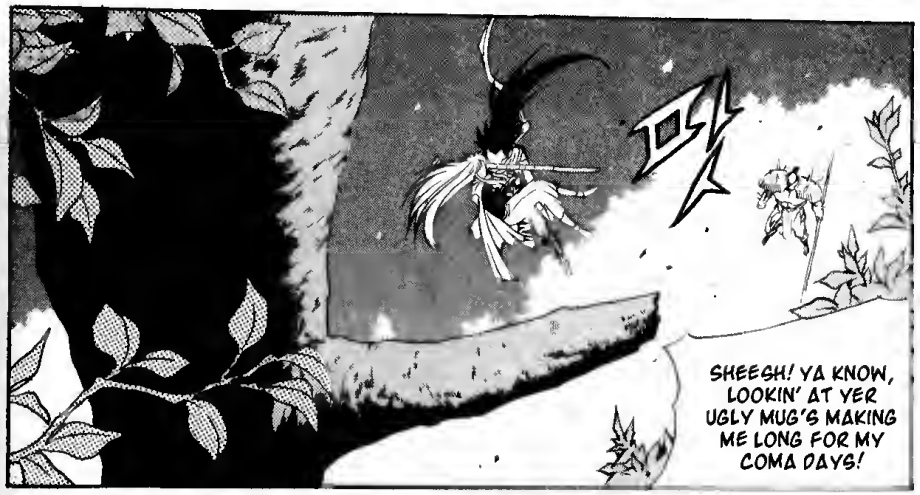

WHAT-WHAT-WHAT?! WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU PORCUPINE-HEADED MONGREL?!


MAYBE IF YA TOOK THE BANANAS OUT 'CHER EARS, YOU COULD UNDERSTAND ME--YA BIG DUMB GORILLA!
I WON'T LET DONG DONG DIE BECAUSE OF SOME RUSTY SLIVER OF IRON!
NOBODY'S TOUCHING THIS SWORD!
YEP! SOMA HAS DEFINITELY RETURNED TO HIS OLD SELF!

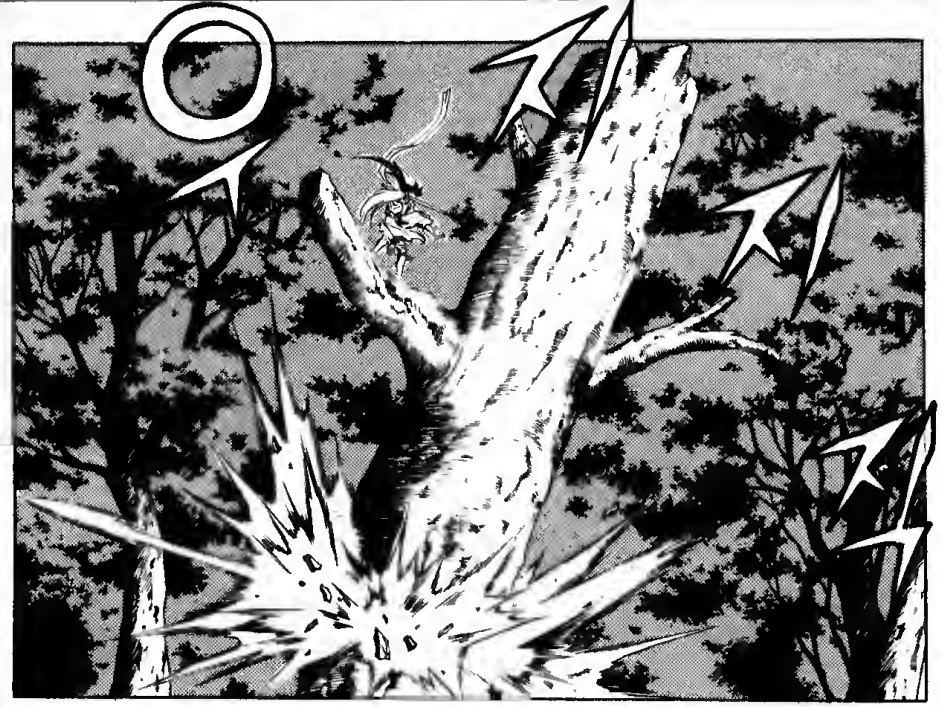

YOUR TONGUE MAY HAVE FOUND SOME COURAGE-- BUT LET'S SEE HOW THE REST OF YEH FARES!!

IDIOT.

D'OH!


SHEESH! YA KNOW, LOOKIN' AT YER UGLY MUG'S MAKING ME LONG FOR MY COMA DAYS!

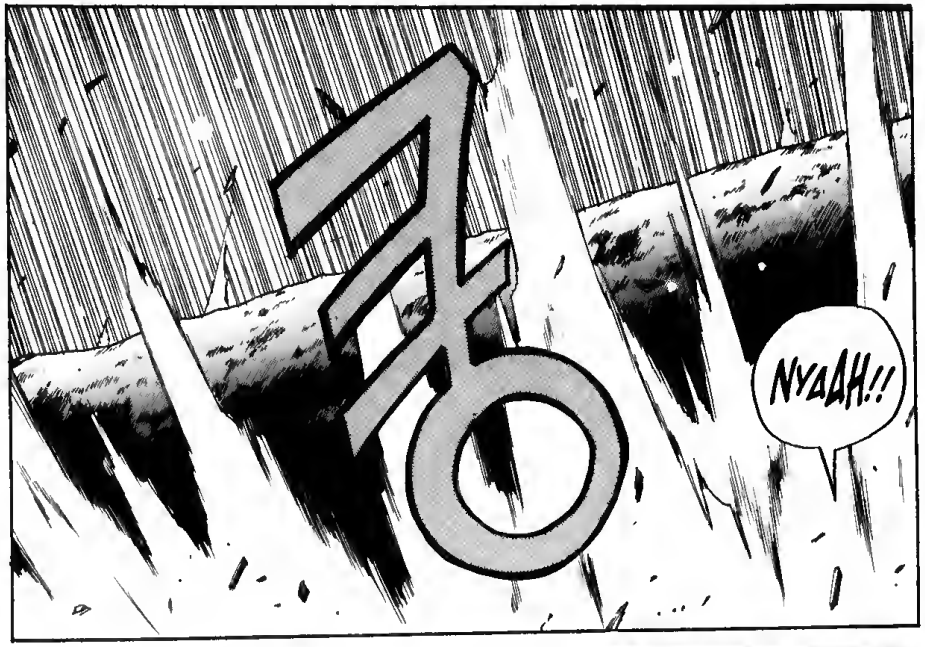
IF YOU WOULD JUST DUST OFF THE COBWEBS IN YOUR BRAIN, YOU'D SEE THAT EVEN IF YOU GIVE THEM THE BLADE, THEY'RE STILL GONNA KILL DONG DONG, JACKASS!
Talking with the sword in his mouth (and yes, it's impossible).
SHUT YOUR LYING MOUTH, BRAT!!



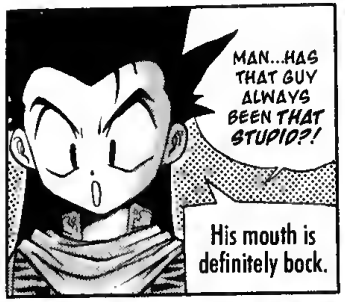
TOO SLOW, "MATEY"! OH-- BY THE WAY? TIMBER!

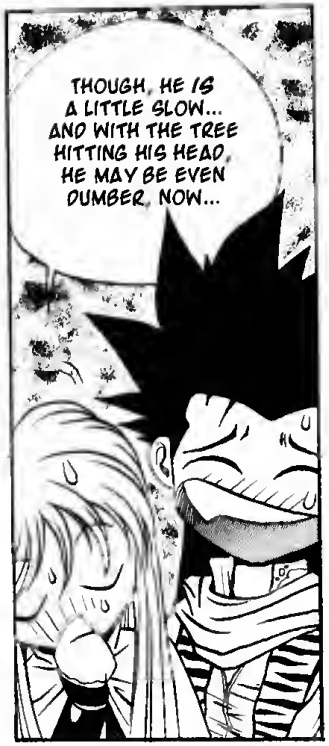
"TIMBER"?! WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY...
KRAAACK!

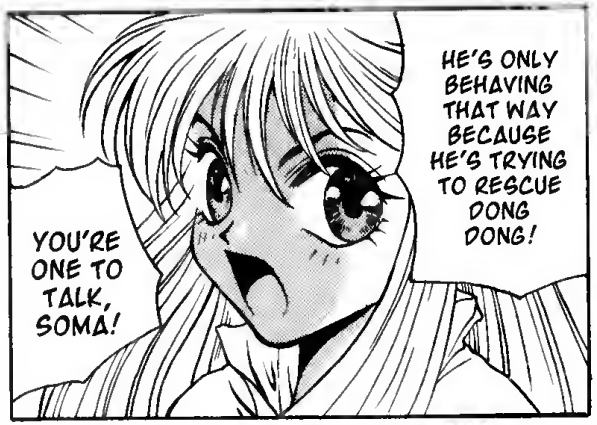
OH... TIM-BER...

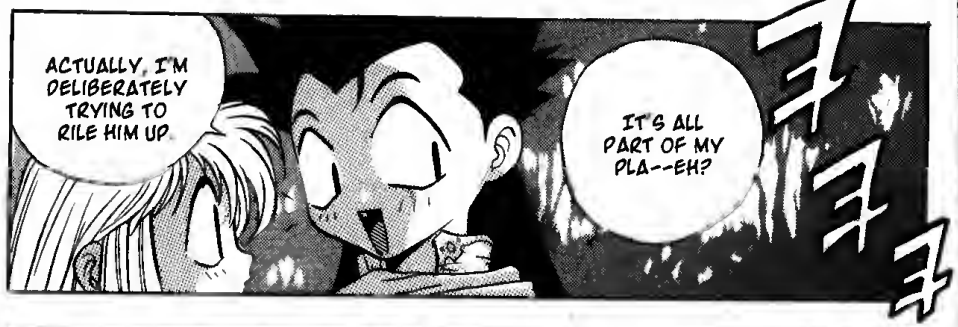

NYAAH!!

TOO EASY!


MAN...HAS THAT GUY ALWAYS BEEN THAT STUPID?!
His mouth is definitely bock.

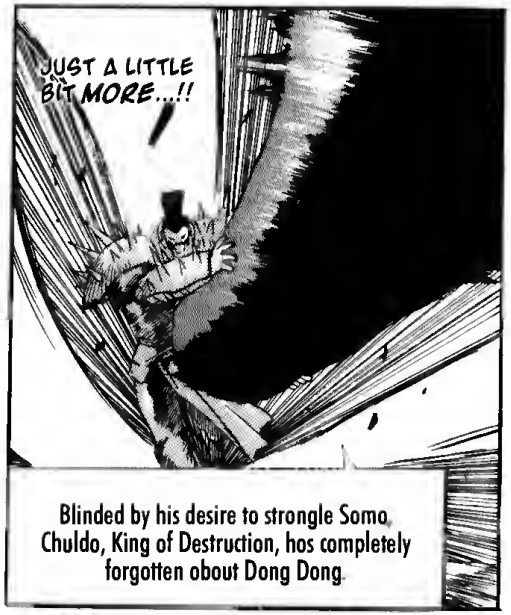

THOUGH, HE IS A LITTLE SLOW... AND WITH THE TREE HITTING HIS HEAD, HE MAY BE EVEN DUMBER, NOW...


HE'S ONLY BEHAVING THAT WAY BECAUSE HE'S TRYING TO RESCUE DONG DONG!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, SOMA!


ACTUALLY, I'M DELIBERATELY TRYING TO RILE HIM UP.
IT'S ALL PART OF MY PLA--EH?

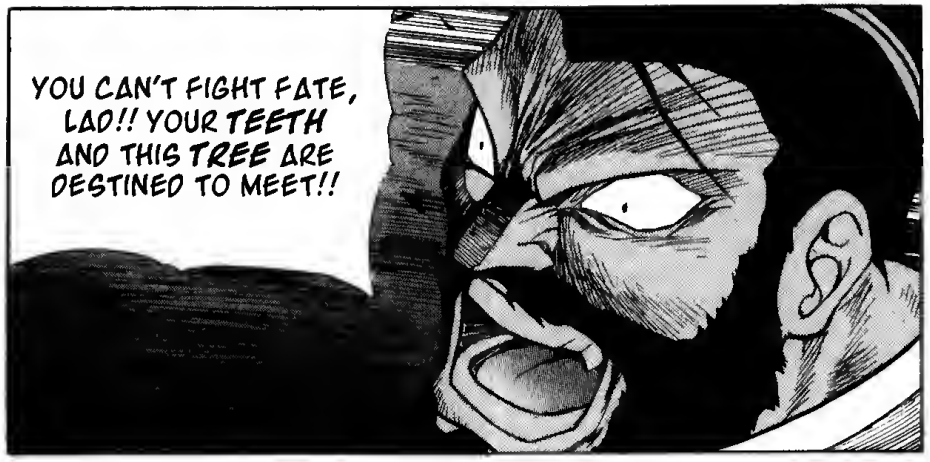
DROPPED SOMETHING, RUNT?!

THAT'S IT... KEEP IT COMIN'...


JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...!!
Blinded by his desire to strongle Somo, Chuldo, King of Destruction, hos completely forgotten obout Dong Dong.

THAT'S RIGHT...BEAT EACH OTHER TO A PULP!
?
EXCEPT...I DON'T THINK THAT oAF CAN TAKE THE BLADE.
No MATTER!

HEH HEH...HE'S JUST OUR PAWN TO BUY THE DEMON LORDS ENOUGH TIME TO GET HERE!
YOU'RE A SLIPPERY ONE, AREN'T 'CHA?!
As soon As THE DEMON LORDS ARRIVE, WE'LL KILL THEM BOTH!
STAND STILL, WILL YA?!


YOU CAN'T FIGHT FATE, LAD!! YOUR TEETH AND THIS TREE ARE DESTINED TO MEET!!

WE DON'T NEED TO RUN ANY FURTHER. THIS WILL DO JUST FINE.
BUT...BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
RELAX, BABE! THIS IS ALL PART OF MY PLAN.
"PLAN" ...?
TSK, TSK... NOW DIDN'T MOMMA TELL YOU IT'S NOT POLITE TO SWING YOUR WOOD AT PEOPLE?!
IT'LL BE A SPECIAL PRESENT JUST FOR YOU.
"PRES-ENT"?
"FOR ME"?
JEST ALL YOU WANT-- BUT NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST WILL STOP ME FROM SAVING MY DONG DONG!!
NO MORE...
NO MORE DEATHS...NOT WHILE I DRAW BREATH!
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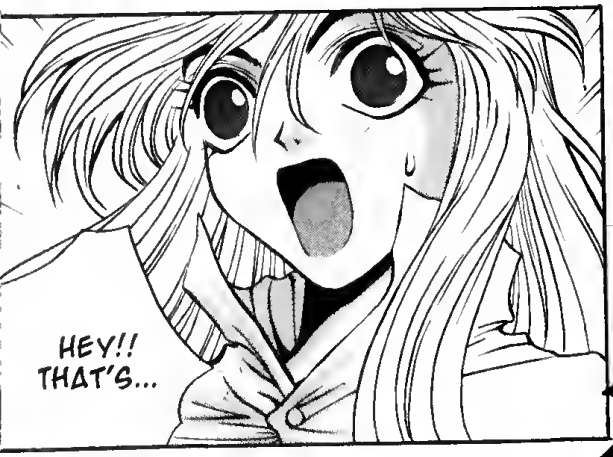
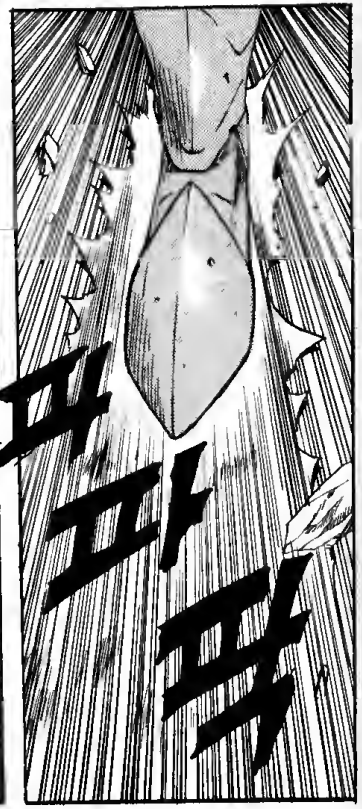
KA AR GH!!
KRAC K!!

HA
HA
HA
HA


HEY!!
THAT'S...

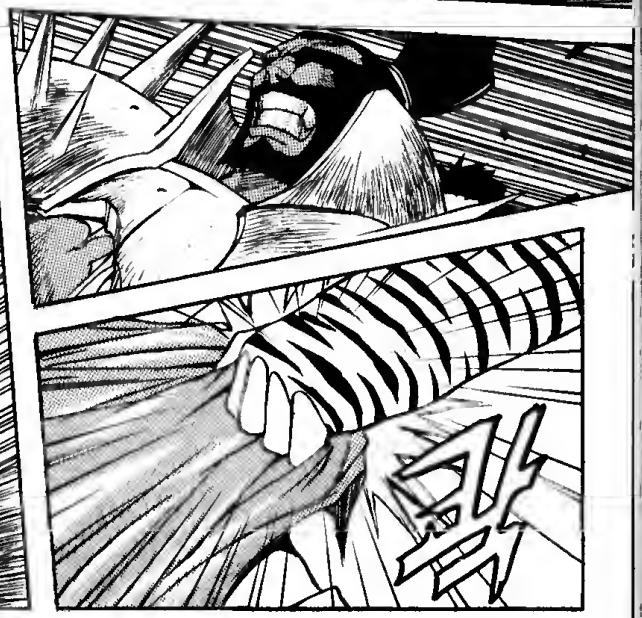

HA
HA
HA

THE DIVINE
GRACE MOORAE!

HA

HEEELP!!

HANG
ON,
KID--


HA

--THIS IS ONLY GONNA TAKE A SECOND!!

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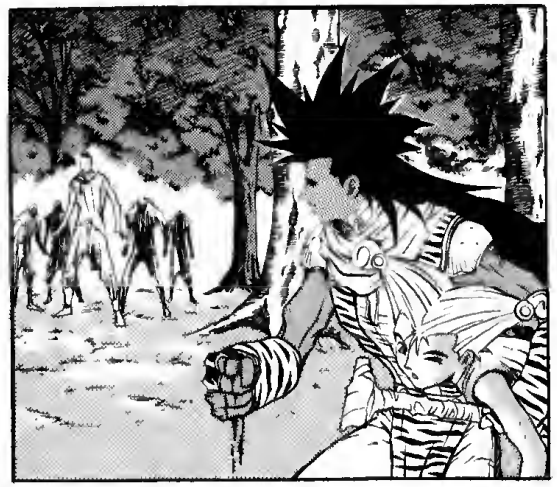

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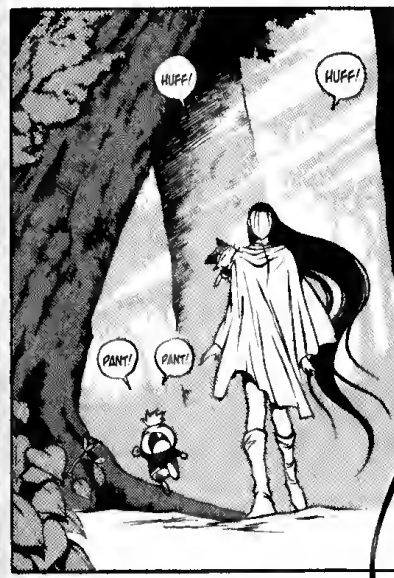
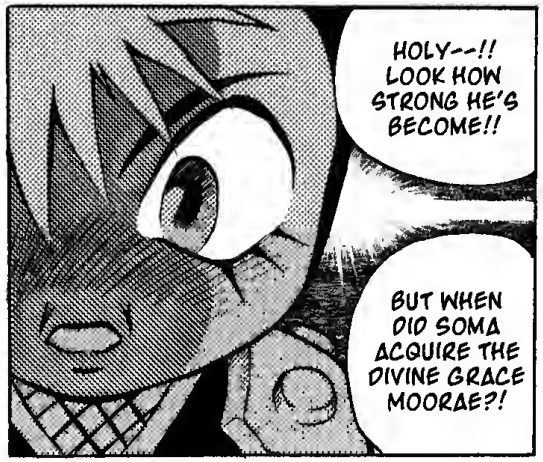
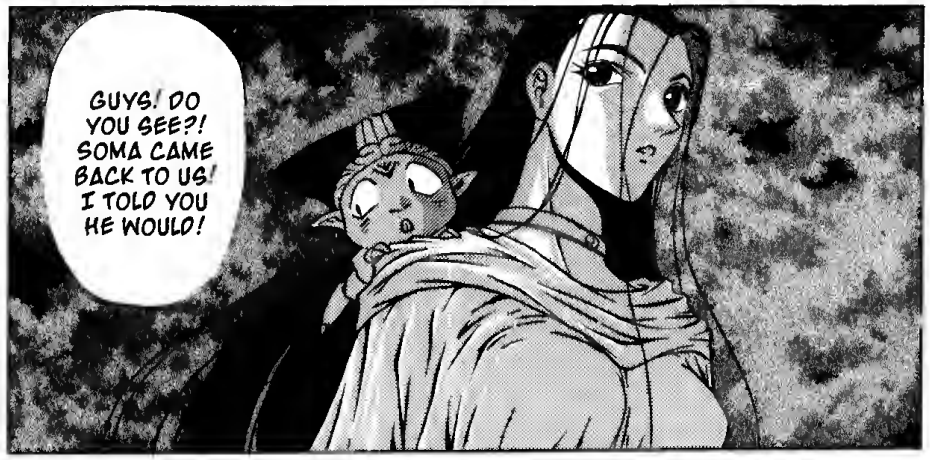
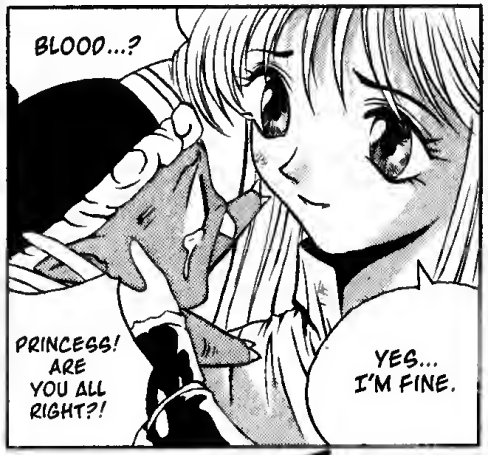

HUFF!
HUFF!
PANT!
PANT!

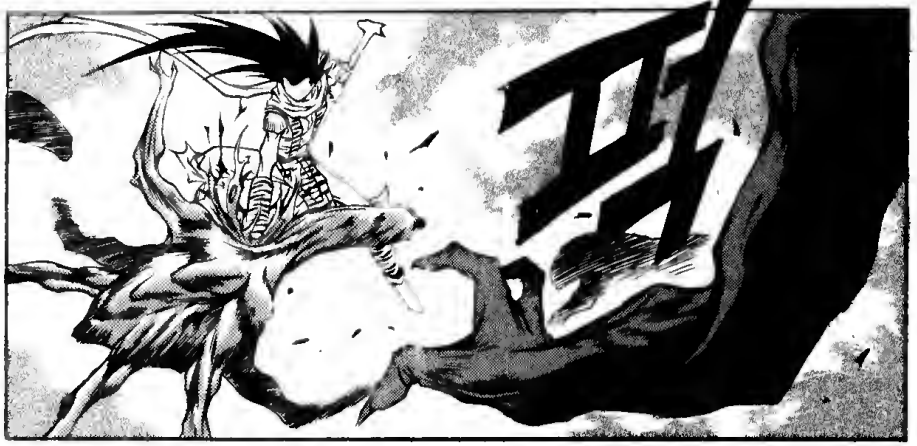
WRETCHED HUMAN!! WE SHALL FEAST ON YOUR FLESH!!


HOLY--!! LOOK HOW STRONG HE'S BECOME!!
BUT WHEN DID SOMA ACQUIRE THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE?!


GUYS! DO YOU SEE?! SOMA CAME BACK TO US! I TOLD YOU HE WOULD!

HE'S STRONGER THAN EVER, NOW!


BLOOD...?
PRINCESS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YES... I'M FINE.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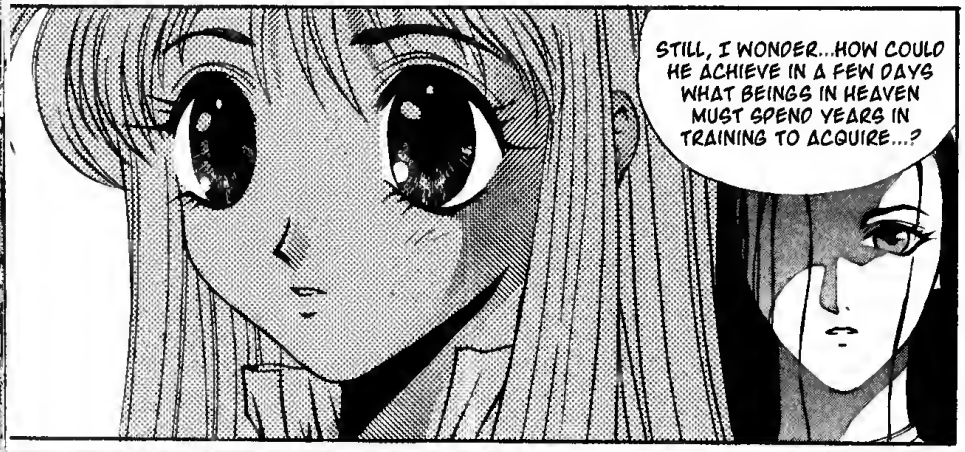
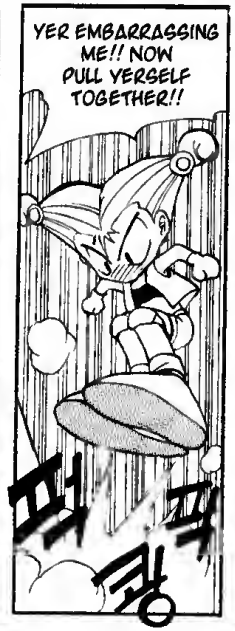

STILL, I WONDER...HOW COULD HE ACHIEVE IN A FEW DAYS WHAT BEINGS IN HEAVEN MUST SPEND YEARS IN TRAINING TO ACQUIRE...?

WHO...OR WHAT...GAVE HIM THESE POWERS?

YOU BLOCKHEAD!! THIS AIN'T NAP TIME!!
GIT UP, ALREADY!!

I'M GETTIN' UP FOR SCHOOL, MA...
JUS' GIMME FIVE MORE MINUTES...


YER EMBARRASSING ME!! NOW PULL YERSELF TOGETHER!!
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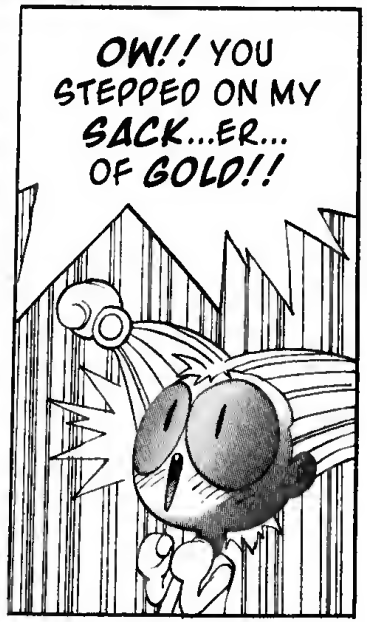
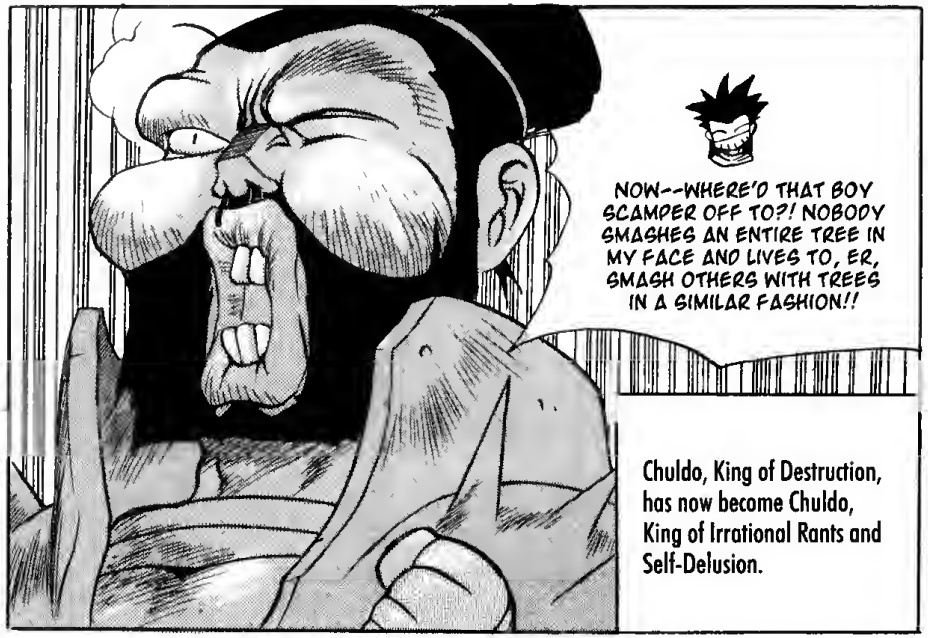
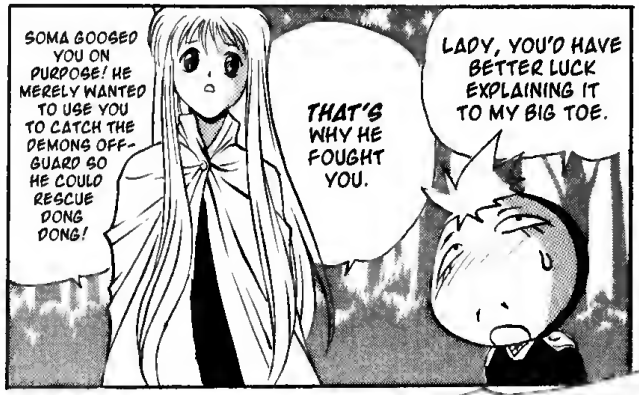

OW!! YOU STEPPED ON MY SACK...ER... OF GOLD!!


NOW--WHERE'D THAT BOY SCAMPER OFF TO?! NOBODY SMASHES AN ENTIRE TREE IN MY FACE AND LIVES TO, ER, SMASH OTHERS WITH TREES IN A SIMILAR FASHION!!
Chuldo, King of Destruction, has now become Chuldo, King of Irrational Rants and Self-Delusion.

WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!


SOMA GOOGED YOU ON PURPOSE! HE MERELY WANTED TO USE YOU TO CATCH THE DEMONG OFF-GUARD SO HE COULD RESCUE DONG DONG!
THAT'S WHY HE FOUGHT YOU.
LADY, YOU'D HAVE BETTER LUCK EXPLAINING IT TO MY BIG TOE.

SILLY GIRL!! YOU ACTUALLY THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?!

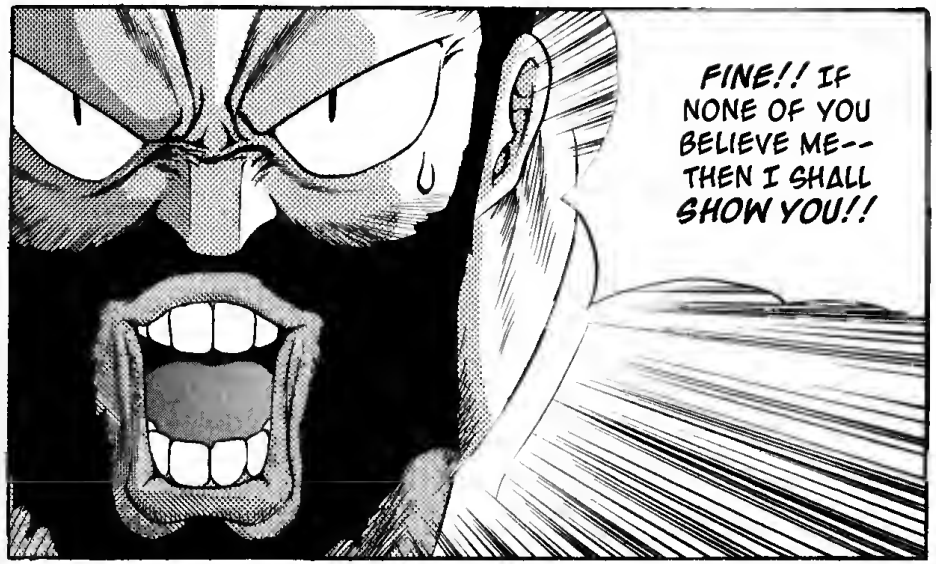
HEH...UH, YEAH... YOU SEE, THAT'S WHY I LET HIM HIT ME AND THEN PRETENDED TO FAINT...YEAH!

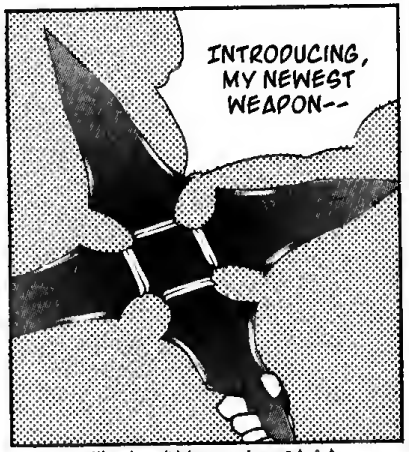
BUT I WOULDN'T EXPECT A WEE GIRL LIKE YOURSELF TO UNDERSTAND THE DEPTHS OF A MAN'S HEART...

WHAT?! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

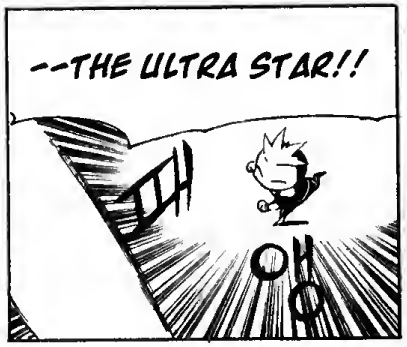
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?!

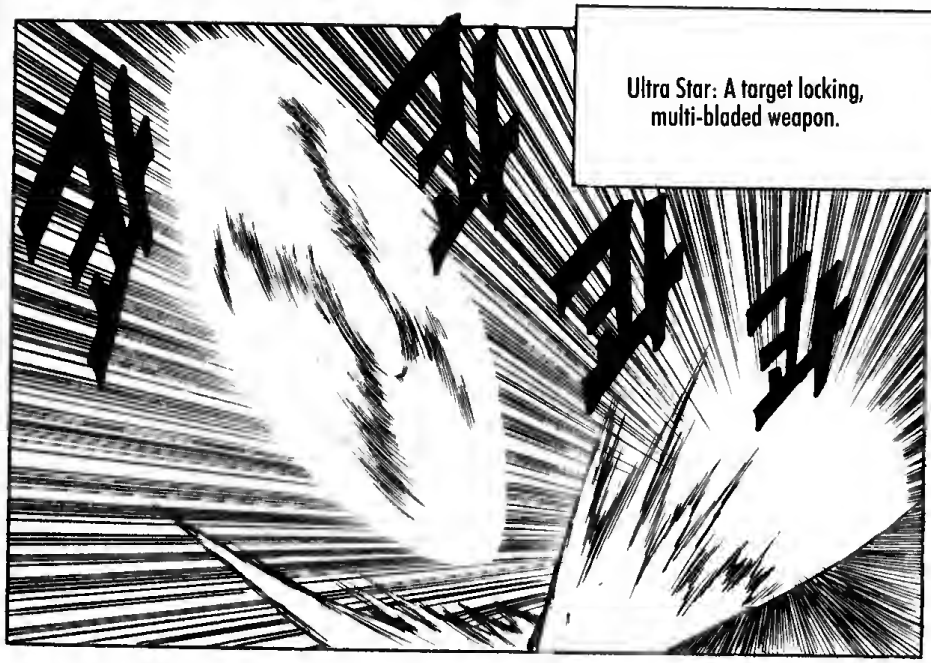
CHULDO...DO US ALL A FAVOR AND KICK THAT NASTY HABIT OF BREATHING.

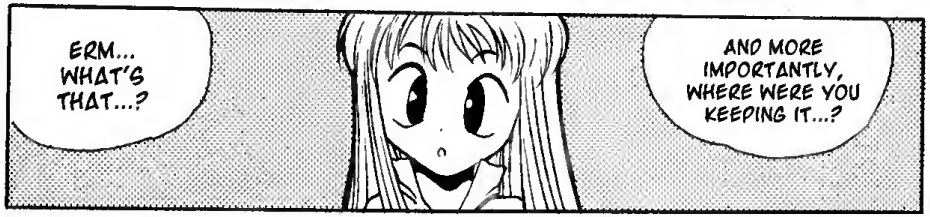

FINE!! IF NONE OF YOU BELIEVE ME-- THEN I SHALL SHOW YOU!!

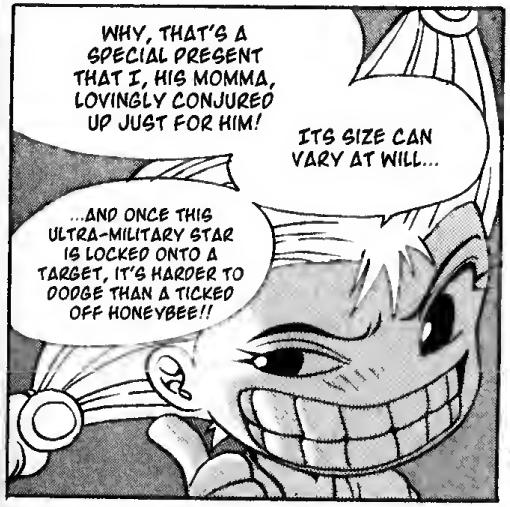


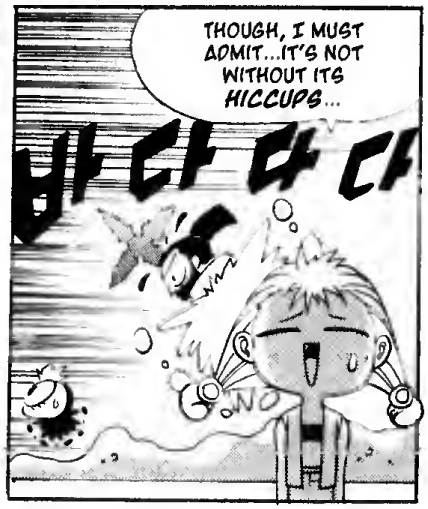
Uh...where did that come from...? ∂ ∂ ∂



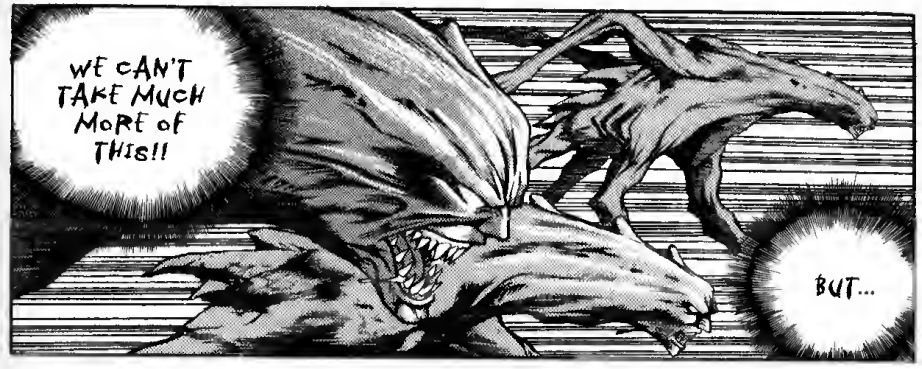


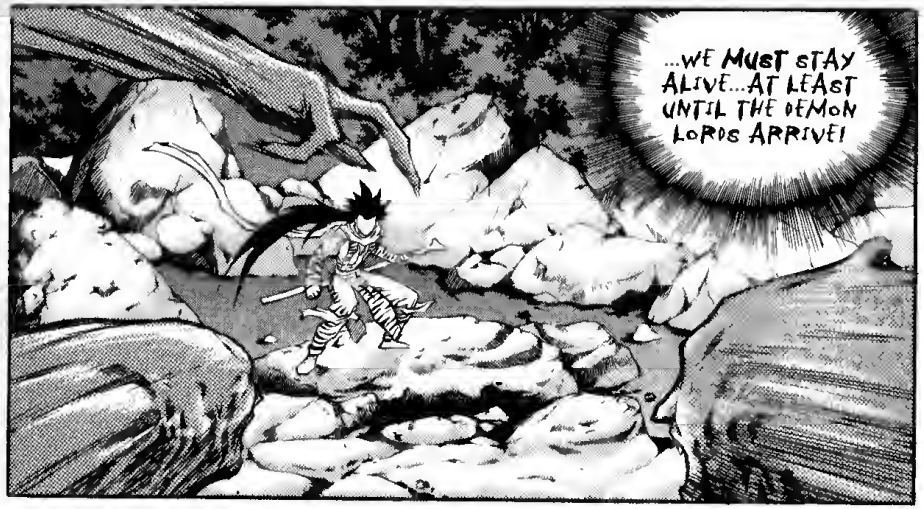


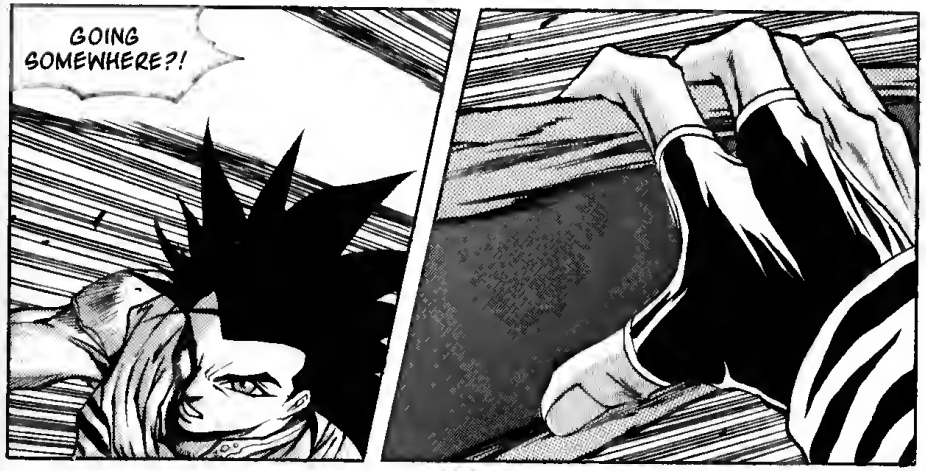




SUCH POWER...!!
WE DIDN'T ANTICIPATE ...!!


WE CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE of THIS!!
BUT...


...WE MUST STAY ALIVE...AT LEAST UNTIL THE DEMON LORDS ARRIVE!


GOING SOMEWHERE?!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
PROJECTILE VOMITING?! GREAT! AND I JUST WASHED THIS SHIRT!!
AS LONG AS THERE'S SOMEONE THAT NEEDS MY PROTECTION--ALL YOUR LIVES ARE MINE TO EXTINGUISH!!
IF YOU WERE TRYING TO "GROSS ME OUT TO DEATH," YOU FAILED, BOYS!!
YEARGH!!

BLADE OF HEAVEN LION ENERGY!!

BLADE OF HEAVEN

HE...
...HE... DID IT!
HE DESTROYED THE PARASITIC DEMON SPIRITS WITH ONE BLOW!!
SOMA WON!!
OH! HE BEAT THEM!
SOMA...? SOMA...?!

HOLD THE APPLAUSE, FOLKS.
THAT WAS JUST THE OVERTURE.
THE YIN AND YANG DEMON TWINS!
YOU'RE GRAVELY MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK YOU'VE WON...
...BECAUSE THE REAL FIGHT BEGINS NOW.
BABY DEMON... IS THAT REALLY YOU? SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING YOURSELF!
THAT VOICE...!
DEMON LORD FAN IS HERE, TOO!
I, FAN, THE FIFTH DISCIPLE OF MACHUNROO, HAVE COME TO CLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!! SO HAND THE BLADE OVER--NOW!!

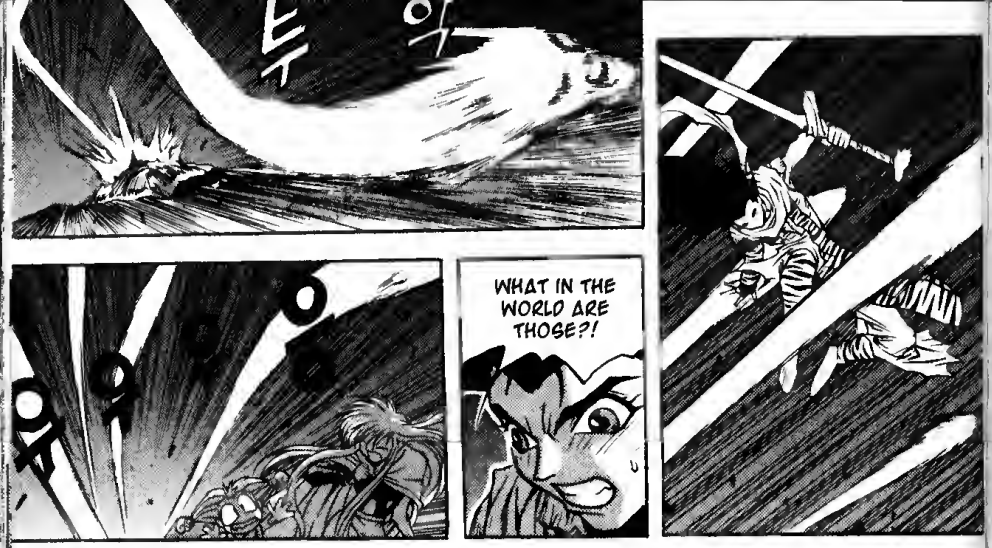
GET BENT.
I AM, OH LONG-WINDED ONE! AND I'VE GOT THE BLADE! SO JUMP DOWN OFF YOUR STUPID MANATEE AND COME GET SOME!
WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY?! A DEMON CONVENTION OR SOMETHING?!
ARE YOU THE ONE CALLED SOMA?
THE BLADE!!

IMPOSSIBLE!! THIS "BOY" CAN'T BE THE BLADE'S CHOSEN OWNER!! AND I'LL PROVE IT!!

THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GONNA "PROVE" IS HOW CHARGING INTO BATTLE WEARING A ONE-EYED MASK AIN'T SUCH A HOT IDEA!!

PARASITIC DEMONS REVIVE!!

EVERYBODY!! GET AWAY FROM THEM!!
THAT LIGHT--!! IT'S COMING FROM THE DEMONS' BODIES!!

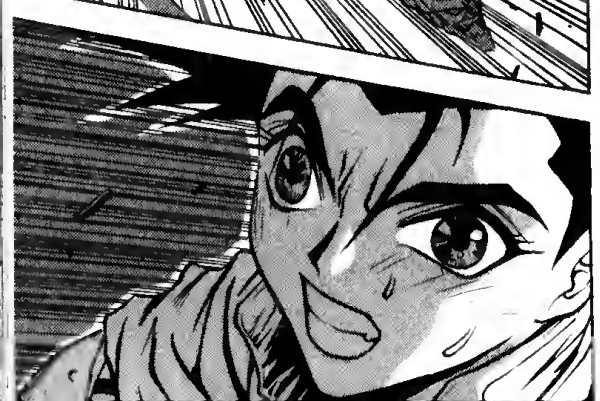


Demon Spirit of One Heart Summons:
A process in which the dead Demon Spirits' demon energy is absorbed by Yang, thus, resurrecting the Demon Spirits, as well as increasing Yang's demonic fighting level.

THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL, IS WHAT I SAY!
IT'S JUST MORE DEMON FOR ME TO CHOP DOWN!!

MAN...AM I POPULAR WITH YOU GUYS! IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A DEMON SLAYER BLUSH!
EH?!
NICE TRY, STINKY! BUT A LITTLE SHORT OF THE MAR--
I MISSED?! NO WAY!!
I'M SURE I HIT HIM!!

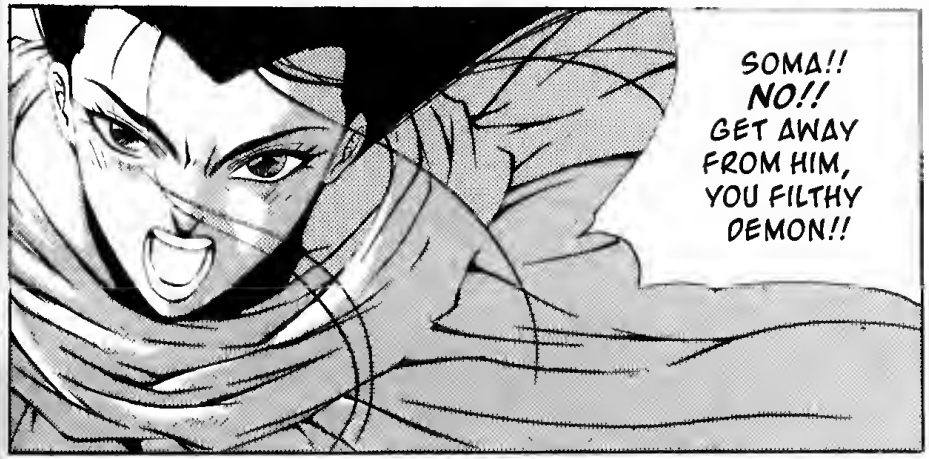
HA HA HA! HAVE YOU FINALLY REALIZED THE TRUE NATURE OF MY DEMON SPIRIT?!



YOU MUSTN'T BECOME DISTRACTED BY HIS ATTACKS! HIS VITAL POINT IS AT THE CENTER OF HIS BODY! YOU HAVE TO ATTACK THERE!!

YOU'RE TOO LATE, TRAITOR!

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOUR "HERO"!!


SOMA!! NO!! GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU FILTHY DEMON!!

AHHK!
RYUHA!
UUUNH...
FILTHY, AM I?! ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU HOW PERVERSE I CAN BE!!
YES...YOU FEEL IT, DON'T YOU? YOU FEEL A PAIN FAR DEEPER THAN DEATH ITSELF!
NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD THE SIDE DISHES-- IT BE TIME FOR THE MAIN COURSE!!

LESSON ONE--
--NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON CHULDO, KING OF DESTRUCTION!!
CHULDO, YOU IDIOT! STOP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH AND FIGHT!
THAT BRAT GETS TO SPOUT ENTIRE SOLILOQUIES WHILE HE FIGHTS--BUT I CAN'T STATE A SIMPLE FACT?! THE NERVE!!
HE'S RIGHT! SHUT UP AND DRAW YOUR SWORD!!
I CAN'T... LIFT...THE BLADE...!

BLADE OF HEAVEN

WHAT'S THIS? NO BOASTS OF STRENGTH? NO DECLARATIONS OF CARNAGE?
JAVE-LINS!!
NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T MIND A FAIR MAIDEN BEING ON TOP... BUT YOU ARE NEITHER A MAIDEN NOR FAIR!
THAT'S JUST LIKE A MAN... ALWAYS TRYING TO STICK IT TO A WOMAN...
DEMON SPIRIT ICE, ATTACK!!
GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT, TROLLOP!!
AHH!
OH, NO!! T-THAT'S--!!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW MEAGLY ICICLES TO DENT ME ARMOR!!

HAW! YOU SEE?! JUST AS I SAID...
YOU MEAN...CHULOO WAS ACTUALLY RIGHT FOR ONCE?!
YEAH... I'M SCARED, TOO...
NO, NO!! THAT'S NOT ICE! THAT'S YANG'S DEMON SPIRIT!!
SURE, ON THE OUTSIDE IT LOOKS LIKE ORDINARY ICE... BUT ONCE IT MAKES CONTACT WITH ITS TARGET, IT QUICKLY SEEPS INTO ITS VICTIM'S SKIN...
...AND FREEZES THEIR ENTIRE BODY!!
FINISHED ALREADY? I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE MORE... STAMINA.
DON' K-KNOW W-W-WHAT YOU M-MEAN... I-I'M J-J-JUST W-WARMING U-UP...
HURRY! WE MUST CUT OFF HIS ARM BEFORE IT SPREADS TO THE REST OF HIS BODY!
AAARGH!!
FOOF
OF

N-NO!! S-S-STAY BACK!! I W-WILL NOT BE D-DEFEATED BY T-T-THAT SHE-DEVIL!!
WHAT GOOD ARE YOU TO DONG DONG DEAD?!
FOOL!! WILL YOU DROP THE MACHO ACT AND CUT OFF YOUR ARM, ALREADY?!

DON'T... DON'T WORRY ABOUT US... JUST S-SAVE YOURSELF... HURRY...
RYUHA...?
NO!! I'LL N-NEVER SURRENDER!! EVEN IF IT K-KILLS ME!!
I'M...G-G-GOING... TO FINISH...W-WHAT I...S-STARTED...!!
CRETIN!! HIS LIFE MATTERS NOT TO ME!! YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING THE INEVITABLE!!

MY SOLE GOAL IS TO CLAIM THE BLADE!!
SO HAND IT OVER, CHILD!!
FINE! IF I CAN'T SLICE AND DICE...
GOOD GRAVY! HE DROPPED THE BLADE!!
...THEN I GUESS...
...IT'S TIME FOR SOME FANCY FOOT-WORK!!

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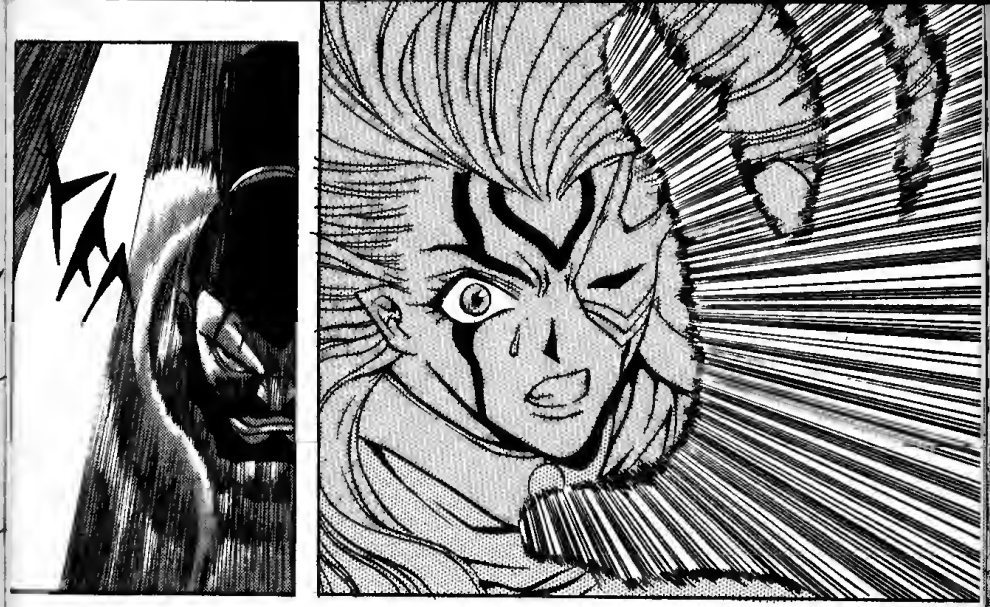
INVINCIBLE PUNCH!!
S'MATTER, SWEETHEART?! I THOUGHT YOU LIKED IT ROUGH!!
HIS FISTS...THEY'RE EMITTING ENERGY?!
IN...INCREDIBLE...!
HIS PUNCHES ARE SO FAST...
THAT.. WAS THE DIVINE GRACE MOORAE!!

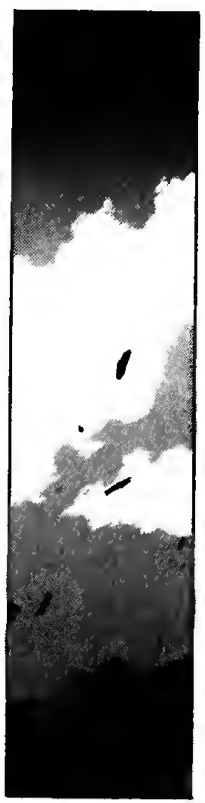
THIS IS IT...! THE BLADE IS MINE!
KEEP YOUR MITTS OFF MY PROPERTY, CHUMP!

NOW--
WHO'S
NEXT?! WHO
WANTS TO
GO?!
I BELIEVE
THIS DANCE
IS MINE.
DON'T BE A COWARD, BOY!
STAND AND FACE YOUR
DEMISE LIKE A MAN!

BECAUSE I WILL CATCH YOU!! YOU WILL DIE BY MY HAND!!
WIND AND FROST DOUBLE ATTACK!!

THAT'S IT, FAN!! TAKE HIS HEAD OFF!!
PARDON ME, MISS... BUT I BELIEVE THIS BE-LONGS TO YOU.
NOW... WHERE WERE WE?
INSECT! I WILL KNEAD YOUR LAST BREATH FROM YOUR BROKEN NECK!!



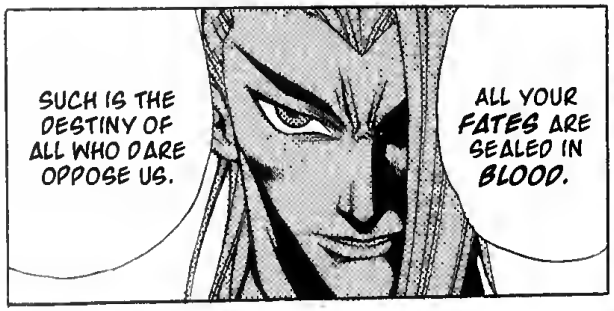


YOU WERE SAYING...? LOOKS LIKE I BE THE ONE DOING THE SQUEEZING HERE!

MM-MMPH!

ICE ACCEL-ERATE !!

YAARGH!!
OH, DEAR. I DO BELIEVE I'VE BROKEN MY TOY.
YOU'LL PAY FOR BRUISING MY NOBLE SKIN!!

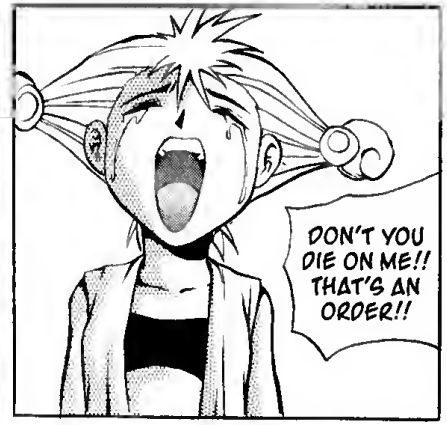

SUCH IS THE DESTINY OF ALL WHO DARE OPPOSE US.
ALL YOUR FATES ARE SEALED IN BLOOD.

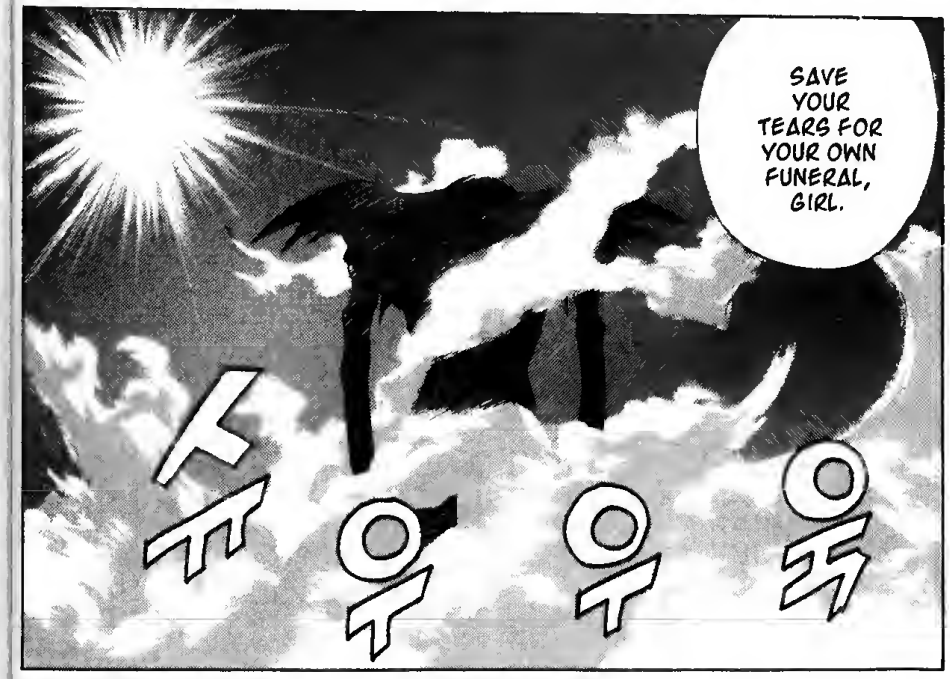
WR... WRONG... NOT... D-DEAD... YET...

DID YOU SEE THAT, CHILD...? DID YOU SEE YOUR COMRADE PERISH...?

AS LONG...AS MY DESIRE TO WIN LIVES...MY BODY WILL NEVER DIE! THAT BE TRUE IMMORTALITY, YA SCUM-SUCKING STRUMPET!

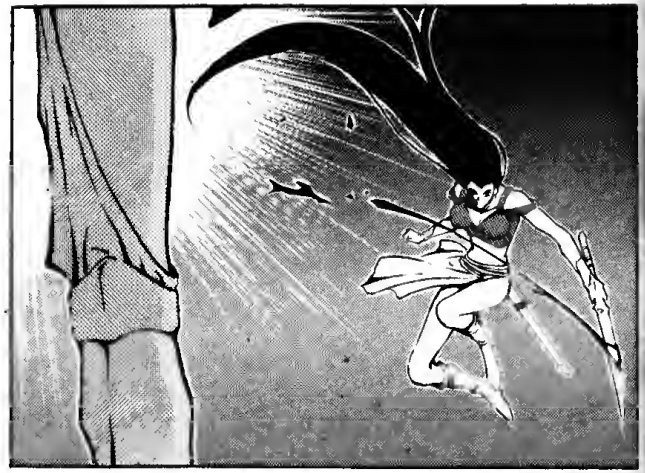
OH HO! STILL NOT DEAD? I GUESS YOUR BODY...
...IS AS HARD AS YOUR IMBECILIC HEAD!


DON'T YOU DIE ON ME!! THAT'S AN ORDER!!


SAVE YOUR TEARS FOR YOUR OWN FUNERAL, GIRL.

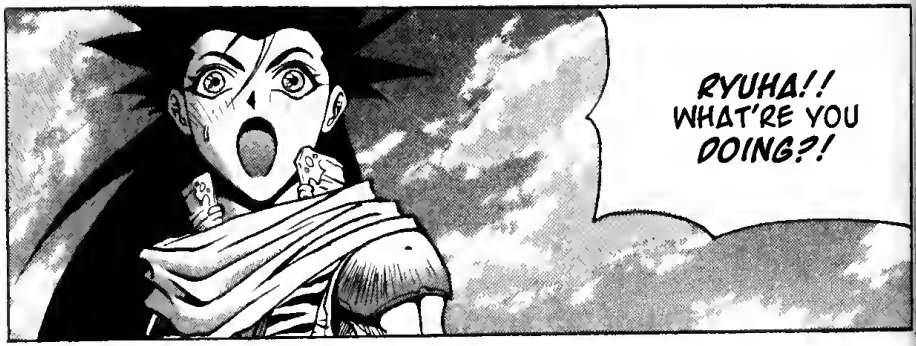
LORD YANG?! HE'S BACK?!
CRIMINY! SOMA'S ATTACK DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH HIM!!
IRONICALLY, I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR MY AMPLIFIED STRENGTH. WITHOUT YOUR BRASH ATTACK, I NEVER WOULD HAVE OBTAINED SUCH POWER.
ER...YOU'RE WELCOME?
HEH HEH...THE PARASITIC DEMON SPIRITS HAVE BONDED WITH ME AT A CELLULAR LEVEL.
MY CELLS CAN NOW REGENERATE AT WILL... INSTANTANEOUSLY REPLACING THE DAMAGED ONES.
HA!
YIN!! BEHIND YOU!!

YOU LITTLE WENCH...



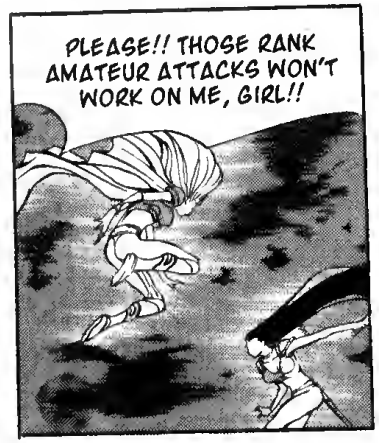
YOU DARE CUT ME?!

DON'T WORRY-- THERE ARE LOTS MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!!


RYUHA!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'VE GOT THIS HUSSY!!
YOU HEAR THAT, BOYS? LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST YOU AND ME!!
WELL...FAR BE IT FOR ME TO ARGUE WITH A WOMAN SCORNED...

HALF MOON SLICE!!


PLEASE!! THOSE RANK AMATEUR ATTACKS WON'T WORK ON ME, GIRL!!

AT LEAST THIS "RANK AMATEUR" IS STILL FASTER THAN YOU, GRANDMA!!

MAYBE THIS WILL SHUT THAT BIG MOUTH OF YOURS!!

HH
OH

...!
CAREFUL! DEATH LIES BELOW!!

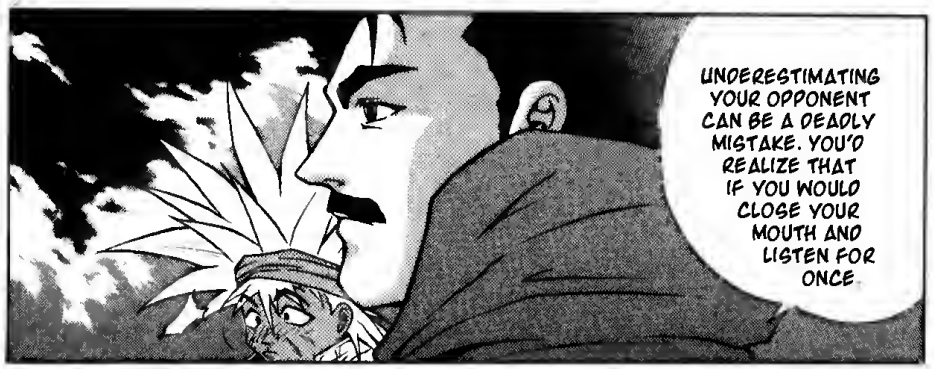
THAT VOICE...!
WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?!

HURRY! BACKFLIP AND DESTROY THE ICE!!
WHO ARE ...?!
JUST DO IT! HURRY!!

THAT VOICE... WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?!
HOW IS HE ABLE TO DODGE OUR ATTACKS?!
IT'S TELLING ME HOW TO DODGE AND COUNTER THEIR ATTACKS!
NEXT, USE SWORD TECHNIQUE 11-- SPACE TURMOIL! LINK THAT WITH A JUMP ATTACK!
WHAT?! HOW DID SHE ANTICIPATE MY NEXT MOVE?!

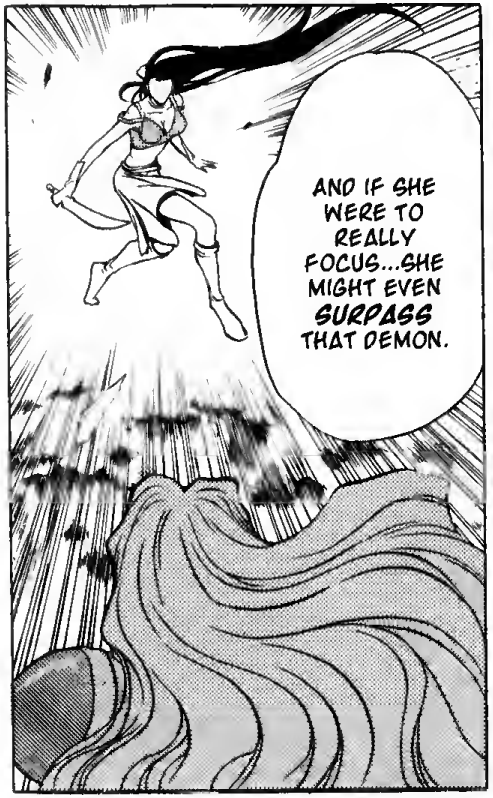
MAN...I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FOUND THE BLADE SO FAST! WELL? WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO TO WORK!
NOT YET, KAY.
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES DOWN THERE.
WE MUST ABIDE BY THE WARRIOR CODE AND NOT INTERFERE.

PWAH HA HA HA! I THOUGHT THE WARRIOR CODE APPLIED TO ACTUAL WARRIORS--NOT CLOWNS WITH STICKS PLAYIN' DRESS UP!


UNDERESTIMATING YOUR OPPONENT CAN BE A DEADLY MISTAKE. YOU'D REALIZE THAT IF YOU WOULD CLOSE YOUR MOUTH AND LISTEN FOR ONCE

TAKE THAT BEAUTIFUL FEMALE WARRIOR OVER THERE. SHE MAY APPEAR WEAK, BUT IT IS ONLY BECAUSE SHE HAS YET TO REALIZE HER FULL POTENTIAL.

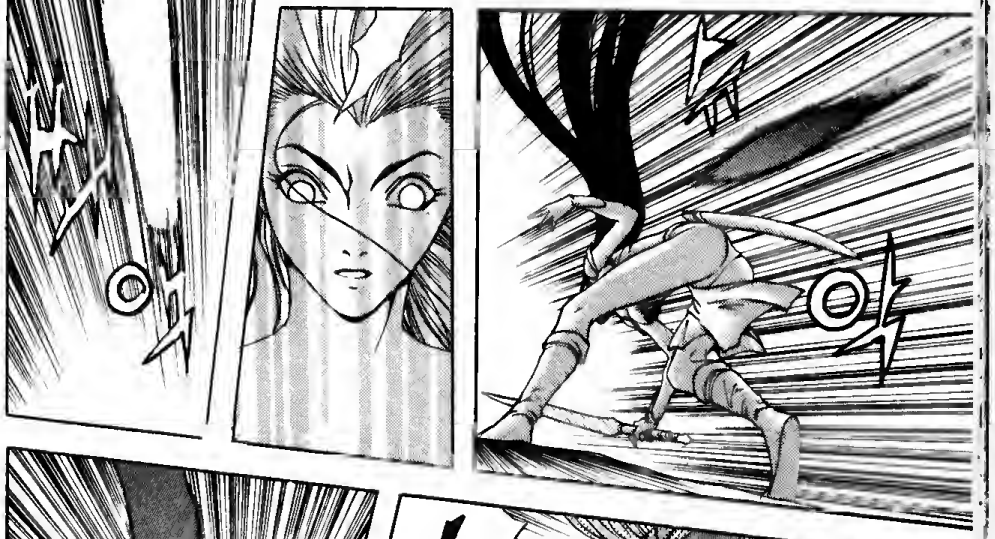
FOR EXAMPLE... IF SHE WERE TO ABANDON HER CURRENT STYLE, INCREASE HER SPEED, AND GO ON THE OFFENSIVE--THEN SHE WOULD BE ON PAR WITH THAT DEMON LORD.

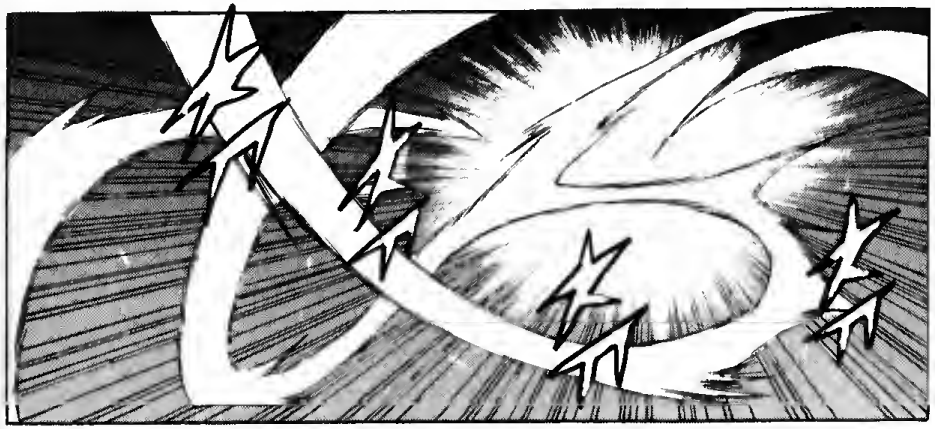

AND IF SHE WERE TO REALLY FOCUS...SHE MIGHT EVEN SURPASS THAT DEMON.

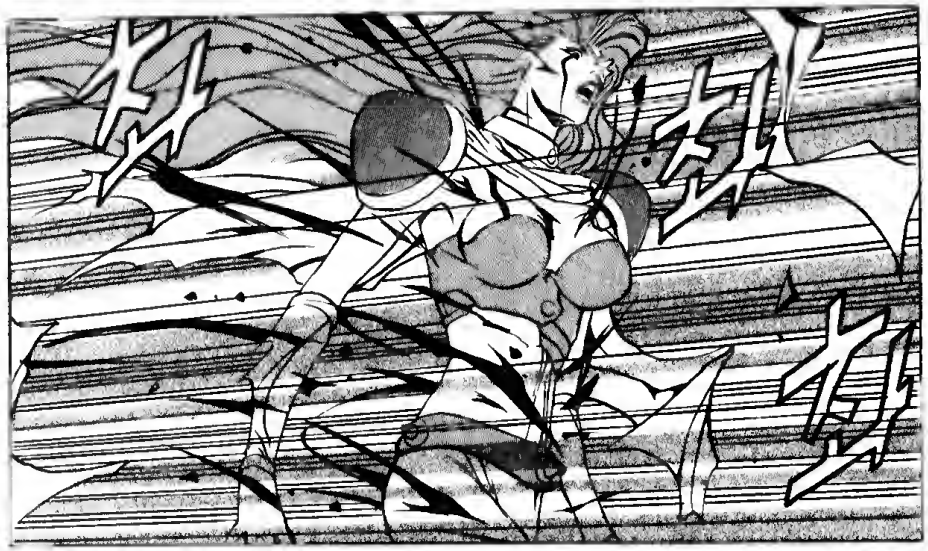
WHAT? NO WAY!

I'LL RIP OFF THAT PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OF YOURS!!

YOU MUST LOWER YOUR BODY AND TAKE THE FIGHT TO HER!

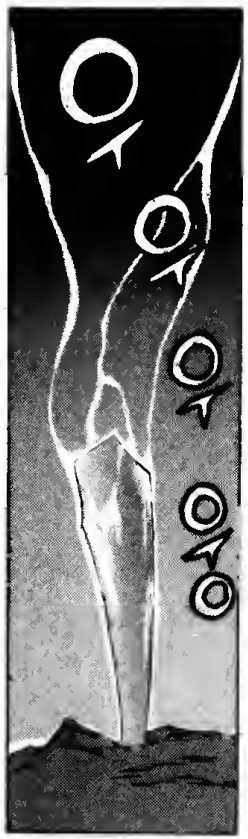






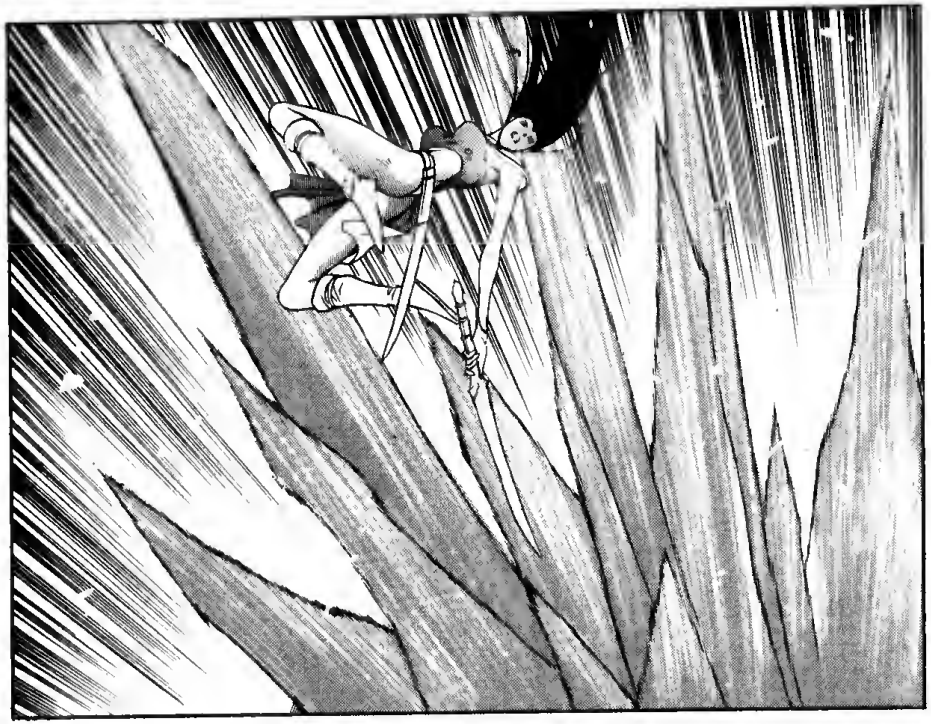
THIS CANNOT BE--!! SHE IS ANTICIPATING MY EVERY MOVE!!

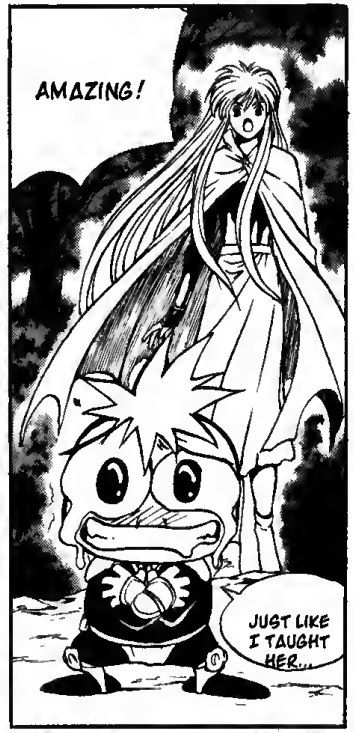
NO MATTER!! SHE CAN'T DODGE ALL OF THEM AT ONCE!!

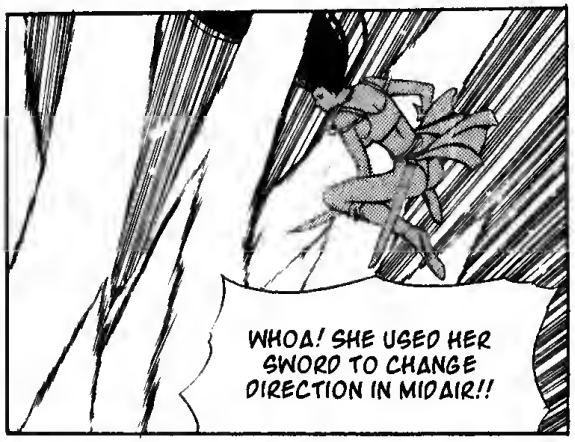


DRIVE YOUR SWORD BEHIND YOU! THEN SWING AROUND AND USE...
?

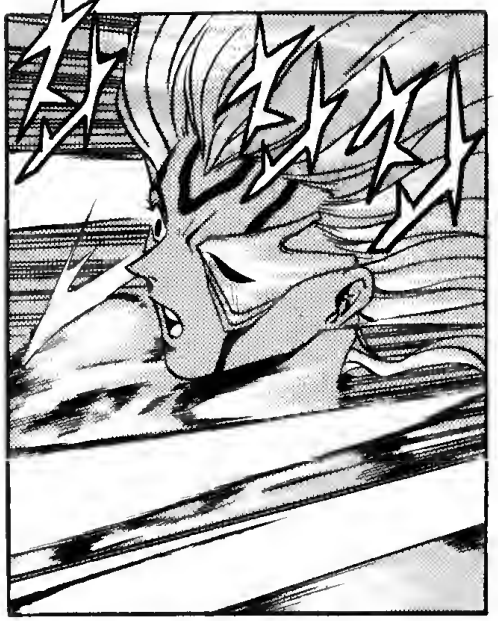
...THE CONTINUOUS BATTLE SWORD ATTACK!!

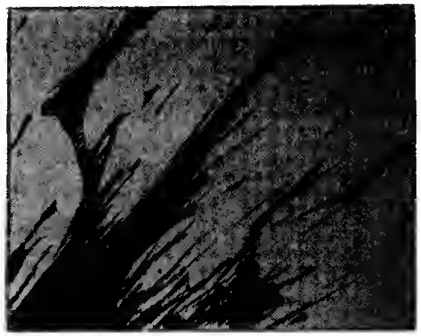


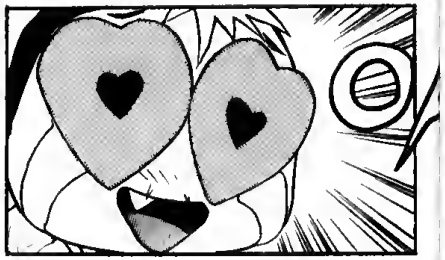

AMAZING!
JUST LIKE I TAUGHT HER...

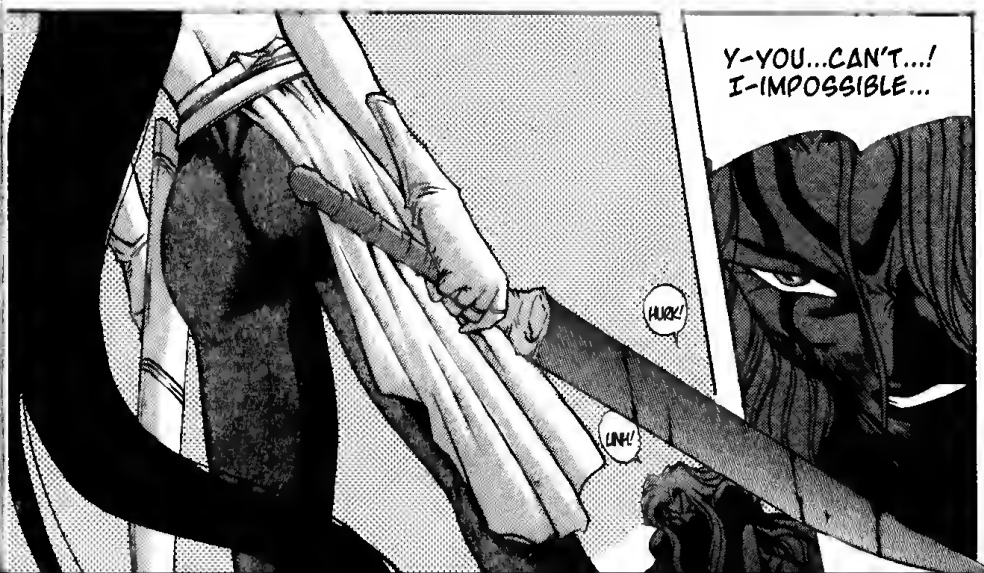

WHOA! SHE USED HER SWORD TO CHANGE DIRECTION IN MIDAIR!!

CONTINUOUS BATTLE SWORD ATTACK!!

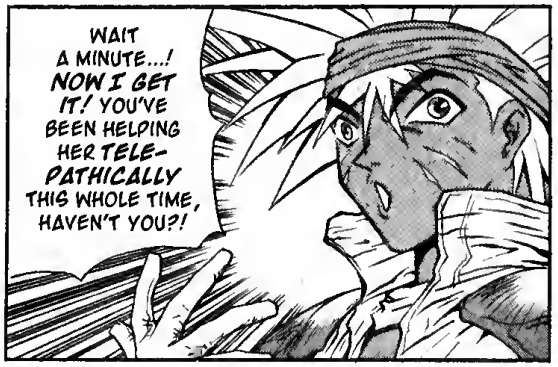


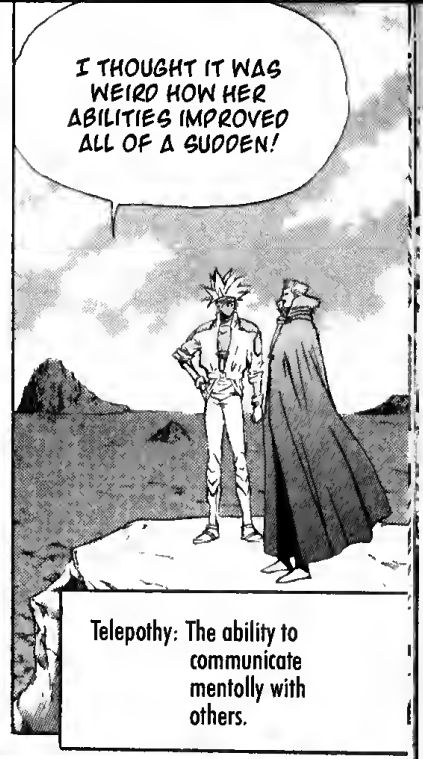





Y-YOU...CAN'T...!
I-IMPOSSIBLE...
HURK!
UNH!

RYUHA'S SWORD SKILL IS NEARLY AS IMPRESSIVE AS HER DERRIERE!
OH, MY SWEET... WHAT A LOVELY COUPLE WE MAKE!


WAIT A MINUTE...! NOW I GET IT! YOU'VE BEEN HELPING HER TELE-PATHICALLY THIS WHOLE TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?!


I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD HOW HER ABILITIES IMPROVED ALL OF A SUDDEN!
Telepothy: The ability to communicate mentolly with others.

HEH HEH... HELPIN' OUT THE HOT CHICK, EH? YOU SLY DOG, YOU...

PIPE DOWN, KAY. NOT ALL MEN'S BRAINS ARE LOCATED IN THEIR SHORTS.
I WAS MERELY TRYING TO PROVE A POINT.

IT'S A BIG WORLD...FROM THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINTOPS...TO THE CLOUDS IN THE SKY...EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED. AND LIKE THE MOUNTAIN, THE PATH OF A SWORDFIGHTER IS AS LONG AS IT IS PERILOUS...

OH, BOY...HERE WE GO AGAIN.
LOOK...I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, OKAY?

TORPEDO SEVEN-TEN MANEUVER!!
차라라라
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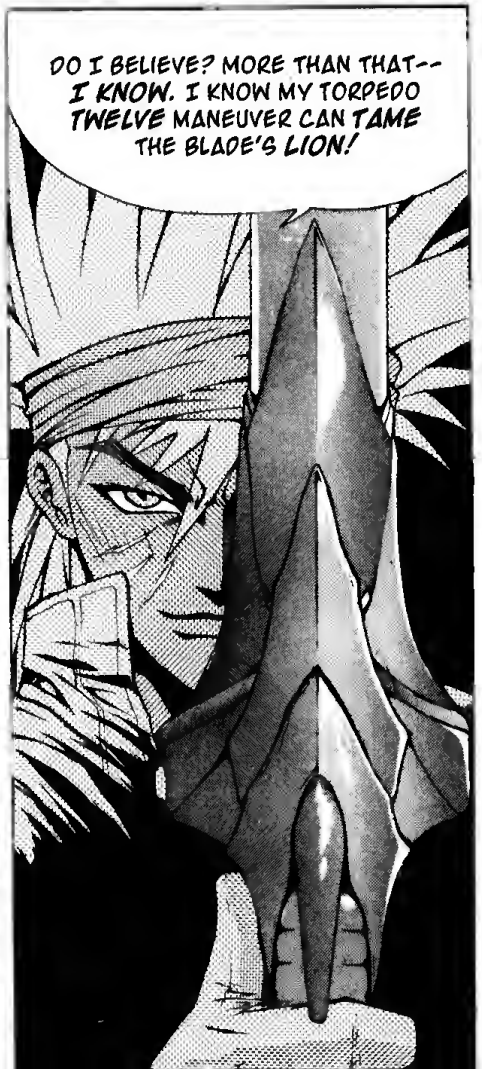
타닷

Y'SEE? NOTHING CAN TRUMP MY TORPEDO'S SEVEN-TEN!
EXCEPT, MAYBE, YOUR ASTROLABE EXPLOSION...



IN THE NEXT BONE-CRUNCHING VOLUME OF

BLADE OF HEAVEN

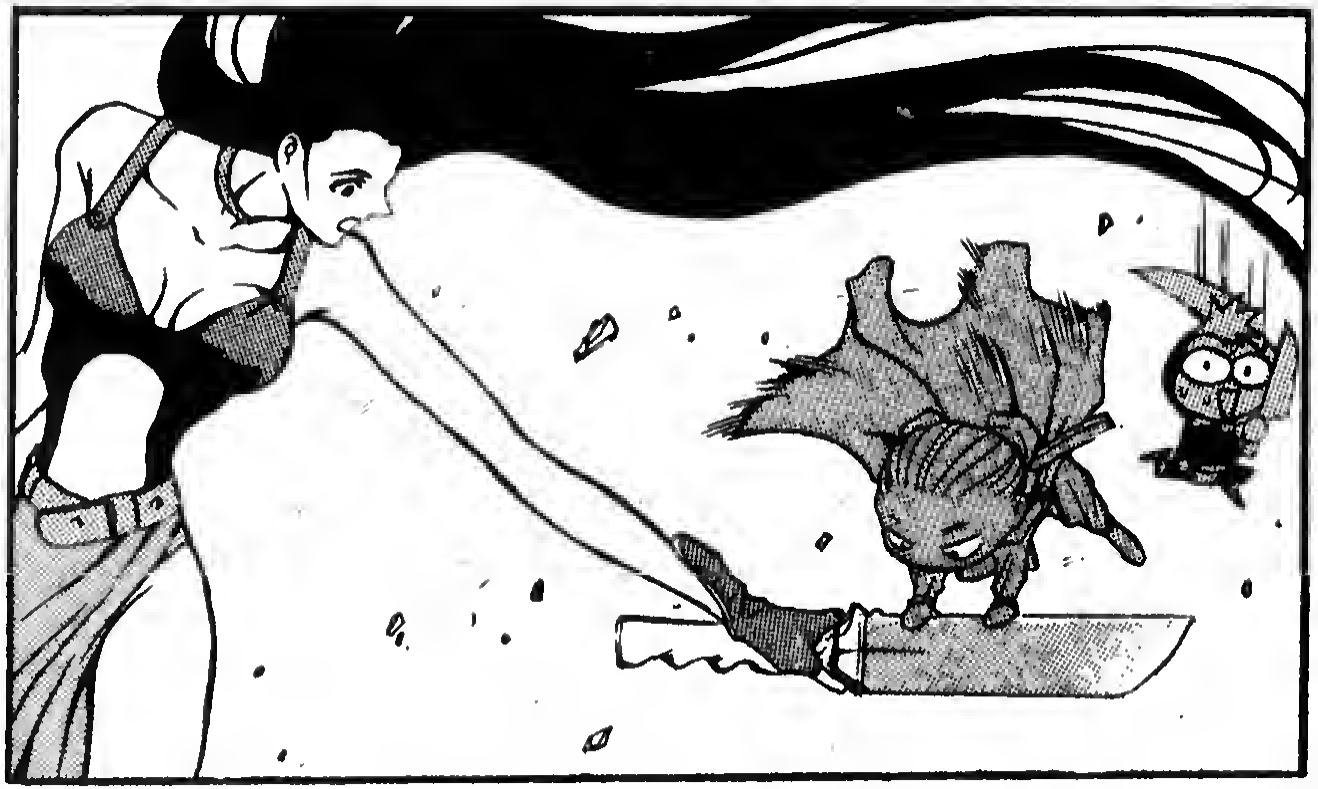
IT'S AN EPIC FREE-FOR-ALL AS FAN AND YIN CONTINUE THEIR ATTACK ON SOMA AND HIS COMPANIONS. CHULDO, THE SELF-PROCLAMED KING OF DESTRUCTION, SUFFERS SERIOUS INJURY AS FAT NINJA AND DONG DONG MAKE AN ESCAPE ATTEMPT. JUST AS ONE BATTLE ENDS ANOTHER BEGINS, WITH SHIMME AND HIS WILD BEAST CLAN ENTERING THE PICTURE AND TAN AND KAY FINALLY MAKING THEIR MOVE ON THE BLADE OF HEAVEN. AND AS THE BATTLES RAGE ALL AROUND, SOMA FIGHTS FOR HIS VERY SOUL ON THE DARKEST OF ALL LANDSCAPES--HIS OWN MIND.

GET READY TO RUMBLE IN

BLADE OF HEAVEN VOLUME 5!

quick release

by

Kick The Kitty

(and all lived happy ever after)